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FURTHER REACTION TO U.S. NUCLEAR TEST BLAST

Gan Comments in PRAVDA

PM241419 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 24 Mar 86 First Edition p 5

[Report by own correspondent V. Gan: "Shameful Page"]

[Text] Washington, 23 Mar -- Americans will long remember the day which has inscribed yet another shameful page in the "career record" of the present U.S. Administration's militarist activity. By a decision of official Washington's nuclear weapon test code-named "Glencove" has been carried out on a test range in Nevada. The yield of the detonated device was up to 150 kilotons -- several times more than the bomb dropped on Hiroshima.

When the explosion occurred a group of antiwar movement activists were in the immediate vicinity of the test range. Your correspondent liaised by telephone with Jessie Koks, the founder and national coordinator of the "American Peace Test" organization, who took part in this demonstration. Here is what she said.

"There were 90 of us. We gathered in the region where the explosion was to be carried out at about 0700. We sang antiwar songs. Shortly after 0800 the police arrested eight demonstrators. Soon we learned that early that morning, before we had assembled, six people who had come from Los Angeles -- three men and three women -- had penetrated the site of the forthcoming explosion. Informing the authorities of the fact, we demanded that the tests be deferred in order not to imperil people's lives. The explosion was not deferred..."

The first this year (and the eighth since the Soviet Union introduced its unilateral moratorium), the explosion in Nevada is directly connected with the work to create a qualitatively new nuclear weapon. Administration spokesmen state that the aim of "Glencoe" was to test a warhead for the Midgetman mobile ICBM. But there are widespread suspicions in the U.S. Congress that the explosion was carried out within the framework of work on the "star wars" program providing for the creation of a nuclear-pumped X-ray laser.

Today's explosion in the Nevada desert has caused considerable political shockwaves in Washington itself. J. Wright, the leader of the Democratic majority in the House of Representatives, said: "There is evidence that they were in a hurry to carry out the explosion in order to wreck the expanding support for the moratorium for whose introduction the overwhelming majority in the Senate and the House of Representatives were calling."

In her talk with your correspondent, Jessie Koks said that the R. Reagan administration is not worried by the opinion of its own people. These words were reiterated by the participants in a mass protest demonstration against the nuclear explosion in Washington, Providence, and other U.S. cities.

Vasilyev in PRAVDA

PM241635 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 25 Mar 86 First Edition p 5

[Own correspondent G. Vasilyev report under the general heading "The Explosion in Nevada and Its Angry Echo: The World's Peace-Loving Forces Protest the Nuclear Explosion in Nevada, the Arms Race on Earth, and the Plans To Take It Into Space"]

[Text] New York, 24 Mar -- The explosion of a nuclear device by the Pentagon at a testing range in Nevada has caused indignation and protests in the United States. Rejecting the administration's fallacious argument that by means of improving nuclear weapons the United States "will strengthen international security," Senator Mark Hatfield (Republican, from Oregon) stated: "This (the explosion of a nuclear device -- G.V.) not only fails to bring us closer to peace, but, on the contrary, leads us along a path which brings us closer to war."

The Nevada explosion, which was carried out earlier than originally planned (the newspapers write that this was done in order to spare the administration the growing public pressure in favor of a Soviet-U.S. accord on this question), finally tore away the camouflage from those who try by various means to disguise their reluctance to do anything at all that would also draw down the rate of fulfillment of U.S. military programs. An article published in THE NEW YORK TIMES says: At first the American Administration explained its reluctance to join the moratorium on nuclear tests by references to the fact that the Soviet Union has supposedly carried out more explosions than the United States, so that the Americans had to catch up. This "argument" did not stand up to comparison with the facts. Even according to the U.S. figures which the newspaper publishes, in 1985, before the announcement of the moratorium, the Soviet Union carried out 8 tests, and the United States 15.

When the first fallacious argument collapsed, the White House and the Pentagon tried to demonstrate that they could not accept the ending of tests because of the problem of verification of such an agreement. The Soviet Union's officially expressed consent to certain forms of on-site verification robbed the American militarists of this camouflage too. Now the U.S. military-industrial complex has come straight out with it. It has been stated frankly in Washington that the continuation of nuclear tests is necessary in order to test the latest types of arms that are being developed in laboratories and design centers, first and foremost space arms under the "star wars" program.

Zholkver on Public Opinion

LD251106 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1600 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Political observer Aleksandr Zholkver commentary]

[Text] It can be stated with certainty that the U.S. nuclear explosion has provoked an explosion of general indignation. What does such a reaction on the part of world public opinion show? Primarily that people in the world are aware of the danger of Washington's policy of force, which jeopardizes the future of all mankind. If Washington is so fond of talking about the global nature of its foreign policies, then it should be noted that they have found truly global condemnation.

In this regard, it seems to me necessary to point out the serious propaganda defeat suffered by Washington. It has exerted, and is exerting, considerable efforts to present nuclear weapons as a sort of guarantor of peace. It is no accident that the President calls U.S. missiles with nuclear warheads nothing other than peace-keepers.

The angry reaction to the nuclear explosion in Nevada shows graphically that people reject such a blasphemous insult to the interests of general security and to common sense itself.

I would add to this that the condemnation of the testing of nuclear weapons is quite evidently spreading to the U.S. plans to use these lethal weapons in space. If the world shuddered, in the full sense of the word, from the underground explosion in Nevada, they you can perfectly well imagine what the consequences of carrying such weapons into space could be.

In taking account of the reaction of world public opinion, I can foresee that Washington will again complain of Moscow's propaganda intrigues and of the success of its peace offensive. Well, as they say, don't blame the mirror if your face is crooked. In the mirror of world public opinion the fundamental differences in the policies of the two states are really graphically reflected -- of the Soviet Union, which in its unilateral moratorium has rejected nuclear explosions, and of the United States, which continues to play nuclear poker. And so, Washington pillories itself.

Finally, another consideration expressed in particular by the leader of the majority in the U.S. Congress: The Washington administration rushed the explosion in Nevada, fearing the wider and wider support in the world for the Soviet proposal for stopping nuclear tests. Yes, however paradoxical it may be, the U.S. ruling circles, even though they possess the most destructive weapons, are clearly nervous and afraid; they are afraid of the increasingly active antiwar movement in the world, and they are afraid of their own people too.

Fedorov Cites Reaction in U.S.

LD231711 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1537 GMT 23 Mar 86

[By TASS political observer Sergey Fedorov]

[Excerpts] Moscow, 23 Mar (TASS) -- The powerful 150-kiloton U.S. nuclear explosion in Nevada not only shook the buildings in Las Vegas, situated 130 km from the site of the tests, but has also provoked a real political earthquake in Washington. It is a long time since the White House has been under such fierce fire of criticism from the Capitol as after this explosion. The fact that the latest nuclear test was carried out despite the demand of the House of Representatives and many members of the Senate to immediately renew talks with the Soviet Union on a complete and comprehensive prohibition of nuclear weapons tests says eloquently that the U.S. Administration gives obvious preference to stepping up the arms race, rather than achieving peace. President Reagan's protestations about its striving "to make nuclear weapons outdated and powerless" is no more than a propagandist cover for the continuation of the arrogant plans to improve old and create new means of mass destruction, including those destined for space.

It is common knowledge that the nuclear tests are in their own way a "litmus paper," which makes it possible to precisely define the true attitude to all problems of arms limitation and reduction. In giving the order to press the button at the Nevada range, the opponents of disarmament have hurried not only to explode a nuclear device but also to undermine the idea of a nuclear peace and to foist on the world the opinion: Mankind is no longer supposed to live without fearing for its own future. The legitimate question also arises: Can the elaboration of ever newer types of nuclear weapons in the United States really correspond with an admission of the impermissibility of nuclear war and of attempts to achieve military superiority as contained in the joint Soviet-U.S. statement of the summit-level meeting in Geneva?

The explosion in Nevada is in its way an "answer" Washington-style to the gesture of good will on the part of the USSR, which declared that it would not carry out nuclear tests, even after the 31 March expiration of its unilateral moratorium before the first nuclear explosion in the United States. More likely, some people in Washington, torpedoing the Soviet moratorium in this way, would be pleased if the Soviet Union is forced to renew its nuclear tests. Then certainly U.S. propaganda, turning everything upside down, would try to place the blame for breaking off talks on nuclear disarmament onto Moscow and ensure that Washington's hands are free to carry out its "star wars" program...

The Nevada explosion was also given the codename "Glencove," "Glenkov" -- with a clear allusion to the name of the residence of the USSR permanent representation at the United Nations, which has done much to establish understanding in the world community of the necessity of reaching agreement [dogovor] on the complete and comprehensive prohibition of nuclear weapons tests, and providing for a nonnuclear peace. The reaction of the public on all continents to the latest militarist demonstration by the nuclear maniacs is convincing; there are now even more supporters of nonnuclear politics. There are now even more people with common sense, ready to sign the statement of the American National Committee for a Sane Nuclear Policy: "Reagan simply lacks the political will to make a step toward ending the arms race."

TANJUG Sees Summit Postponement

LD232052 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1900 GMT 23 Mar 87

["Soviet Nuclear Test Ban Likely To Be Lifted" -- TANJUG heading]

[Text] Moscow, March 23 (TANJUG) -- The Soviet Union is likely to resume nuclear testing following yesterday's underground nuclear test in Nevada.

After the U.S. action, Moscow has indicated it will not "sit with folded arms." The self-imposed Soviet moratorium was originally to last until December 31, but was extended to March 31 this year, in expectation of Washington's decision to join it.

Meanwhile, Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, responding to an appeal by leaders of the six countries which signed the Delhi Declaration, left open the possibility of the moratorium being extended past the end of March, but only until the first American nuclear test. That took place yesterday.

Sources in Moscow believe that the U.S. test in Nevada "has blown up" what has remained of the "Geneva spirit" following the Reagan-Gorbachev meeting last November, and that their new meeting, scheduled for this year in Washington, will probably be put off for better times.

Soviet party paper PRAVDA calls the U.S. test "an affront to all peoples of the world" and says that by it the U.S. "has neglected the demands of its own people."

Many foreign observers in Moscow believe that the Soviet test ban, announced on August 6 last, was the "most realistic and practical" Soviet peace initiative, since the two superpowers and about ten other countries have the equipment which can easily detect nuclear tests anywhere in the world.

IZVESTIYA EDITORIAL ON SOVIET DISARMAMENT POLICY

PM241704 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 Mar 86 Morning Edition p 1

[Editorial: "The 27th CPSU Congress on the Struggle for Disarmament"]

[Text] Is there anyone among us who does not wish for peace for his own home? Is there anyone who does not strive for a better, purer, and fairer life? No, there are no such people!

The plans drawn up by the 27th congress are daring, the scale of the deeds to be accomplished is grand. But our responsibility to history is even greater.

The leaders of modern imperialism are aware that each one of our successes and each victory in the struggle for the goals and ideals of Great October strengthens the potential for peace and progress on a worldwide scale. Imperialism perceives this as a threat to its very existence. So it embarks on attempts to halt the march of history, to undermine the positions of socialism, and to gain social revenge on a worldwide scale. It does not shrink from direct crimes against mankind. "The gravest crime committed by imperialism against the peoples," the CPSU Program emphasizes, "is the race in nuclear and other arms which it has unleashed on an unprecedented scale."

The consequences are obvious. The race has already led to an excessively high level of the balance of nuclear potentials. So far only equal danger is ensured for each of the opposing sides at this level. But the continuation of the arms race can only enhance this equal danger and take it to limits at which parity ceases to be a factor of restraint.

Consequently, it is primarily necessary to greatly reduce the level of military confrontation and to guarantee really equal security at the lowest possible level of strategic balance.

Under conditions when imperialism continues to count on achieving military superiority over the USSR and the socialist community, one of our most important tasks is to continue maintaining our Armed Forces at a level that rules out any superiority by the forces of imperialism.

But socialism has never of its own will tied its future to military solutions of international problems. Our ideal is a world without weapons or violence.

This ideal contains a concentrated expression of the humanism of communist ideology and its lofty moral values. This ideal contains the CPSU's aspiration to set man free for creative purposes.

The CPSU and the Soviet state link progress in this direction with disarmament as one of the most important foundations of international security in general. In this connection the CPSU Central Committee Political Report to the 27th congress stressed the growing need to resolve the task of outlawing nuclear weapons and totally eliminating means of mass destruction.

This is a task of a truly world historic scale. It is a task on which the answer to the question of whether mankind will exist or not depends.

World War I, which was unleashed by imperialism, enveloped 38 states. The result was 10 million killed and 28 billion dollars in damage from the destruction of material assets.

World War II enveloped 72 states. The result was 55 million killed and 316 billion dollars in damage.

Today imperialism is creating the threat of a third world war. If it is not prevented it will not bypass a single state and, as a result of the direct effects of nuclear strikes alone, could kill at least half of mankind.

In order to prevent this it is necessary to resolutely and irrevocably break with the type of thinking and actions which for centuries were built on the acceptability and permissibility of wars and armed conflicts. This necessitates a new philosophy of security corresponding to the demands of the nuclear space and a platform of concrete actions for the sake of saving the earth from nuclear and other types of mass destruction weapons.

The program -- historic in terms of its scale and importance -- for totally eliminating mass destruction weapons by the end of this century and preventing the danger of war put forward in the 15 January 1986 statement by the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee is an organic fusion of the philosophy of shaping a secure world with a reliable platform of concrete actions. The 27th Congress proclaimed the struggle to implement that program as the central avenue for the USSR's foreign policy in the years ahead.

The plan for concrete action which is put forward in the statement, a plan with a strict time course, demonstrates the USSR's desire to act in the military sphere in such a way as to ensure that nobody has any grounds to fear for their own security or doubts as to the purely defensive thrust of Soviet military doctrine. But both our country and our allies must equally be spared from feeling a threat.

In this connection it was stated at the 27th CPSU Congress: The Soviet Union is in favor of removing weapons of mass destruction from circulation and of confronting military potential within the bounds of a reasonable sufficiency. But since these bounds continue to be limited by the positions and actions of the United States and its partners in military blocs, our country's principled position is defined by a clear, laconic formula: The Soviet Union does not claim greater security and will not accept lesser security.

The USSR approaches the American "star wars" program from this position too. The Soviet Communists' congress stressed once again: It is extremely necessary, before it is too late, to seek a solution guaranteeing us against the transfer of the arms race into space.

The Soviet Union proceeds on the basis that a sharp reduction in nuclear potential could help substantially in overcoming this obstacle to radical disarmament. The resolution of the question of medium-range missiles in the European zone separately could be a real step in this direction. The possibility of an accord also exists on the question of ending nulcear tests.

The Soviet Union is not merely ready for such accords in the most important avenues of arms limitation and reduction -- it actively seeks them. This desire is confirmed by the USSR's decision not to carry out nuclear explosions even after 31 March -- until the first nuclear explosion in the United States, as was announced after the 27th CPSU Congress in the CPSU Central Committee general secretary's reply to the joint message from the leaders of the "Delhi Six."

However, it is hard to discover in the American leadership's position any serious readiness to embark in practice on the resolution of cardinal problems of eliminating the nuclear threat. Yet Washington's practical actions heavily negated its assurances of its desire for peace and averting the danger of war.

The latest test explosion of a nuclear device, carried out by the Pentagon the other day, was an open challenge to mankind, which sees the ending of nuclear tests as the direct path to ending the creation of more and more new types of thermonuclear weapons and reducing the arsenals of such weapons. Here the White House has a special fondness for attempts to submerge genuine disarmament beneath verbal variations on the theme of verification. These attempts are futile. The 27th congress reaffirmed that all-embracing, very strict verification [proverka] is probably the most important component in the disarmament process, and that therefore disarmament with verification [kontrol] is impossible; but verification [kontrol] without disarmament, which is what the United States proposes, does not make sense.

What does make sense, is envisaged by the concept of an all-embracing international security system put forward in the CPSU Congress Committee Political Report to the 27th congress, is a "strictly verifiable [kontrolirumoye] lowering of the levels of states' military potentials to the limit of what is reasonably sufficient." What also makes sense, furthermore, and is envisaged by the fundamentals of such a system in the military field is the renunciation by nuclear powers of war -- both nuclear and conventional -- against each other or against third states; the prevention of an arms race in space, the termination of all nuclear weapons tests and the complete elimination of nuclear weapons, the banning and destruction of chemical weapons, and the renunciation of the creation [sozdaniye] of other means of mass destruction; the disbandment of military groupings with the prior renunciation of the expansion of or formation of new groupings; and the proportional and balanced reduction of military budgets.

But it does not all depend on us. The aims of the most egoistic groups of the U.S. ruling elite, linked with the military-industrial complex, openly conflict with the aims of our people and of all the peoples of the world, including the American people. For those circles disarmament means a loss of profits and a political risk, M.S. Gorbachev noted, whereas for us it means gains in all respects: economic, political, and moral.

Imperialist reaction's schemes and actions should not be dismissed. At the same time something else must surely be visible: that there have never been such real opportunities for preserving and consolidating peace. By pooling their efforts the peoples can and must avert the threat of nuclear destruction.

The decisive factor here will be the successful implementation of the plans and outlines put forward by the 27th CPSU Congress. Achieving the targets set by the congress will also be of great international significance. The consolidation of the material basis of our motherland's might will serve to further affirm the principle of peaceful coexistence and will make a weighty contribution to the cause of consolidating world peace.

It is this that socialism sees as its historic calling.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA EDITORIAL ON PEACE EFFORTS

PM200929 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 18 Mar 86 Second Edition p 1

[Editorial: "Strategy of Universal Security"]

[Text] The appeal for peace and the peoples' security rang out with new force from Moscow, from the platform of the 27th CPSU Congress. This impassioned appeal prompted every sensible person to think about this question: Can mankind escape the nuclear danger, or will imperialism's policy of confrontation, leading to the increased likelihood of nuclear conflict, gain the upper hand?

The Soviet Union's firm determination to uphold a peaceful future for the peoples was expressed convincingly in the Political Report to the congress, delivered by M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. Numerous responses to this document from various corners of the globe indicate that people of good will received it as a program for the development of universal security. Even our ideological opponents and enemies are forced to recognize the the unswerving desire of the Land of the Soviets to find ways of improving international relations.

At the Soviet Communists' forum and in the new edition of the CPSU Program which the congress adopted, a profoundly scientific, Marxist-Leninist characterization of the modern world was given. It is marked by a complex, multifaceted approach, dynamism, and the existence of opposing trends and contradictions. The social shifts of our age are changing the conditions for future social development. Mankind's progress is impossible without socialism. World socialism is a mighty international formation built on a highly developed economy, a solid scientific base, and a reliable military-political potential. Socialism not only constantly improves social relations, demonstrating the real humanism of the entire tenor of its life. It erects an increasingly firm barrier against the ideology and politics of war and militarism, reaction and violence, and against all forms of misanthropy, and actively promotes social progress.

At the same time the 27th CPSU Congress drew the conclusion that in present-day conditions imperialism represents a growing threat to mankind's very existence. The world of capital is finding it difficult to understand the realities of our times and has not renounced the ideology and politics and hegemonism. Imperialism is prompted to translate the competition between the two systems into the language of military confrontation by the desire for social revanche, its own inner mainsprings, and its very socioeconomic nature. The problems and crises experienced by capitalism arise within itself and are the logical result of the inner antagonistic contradictions of an old society. Being unable to cope with the exacerbating problems of the descending phase of capitalism's development, the ruling circles of imperialist countries resort to methods and means which are undoubtedly incapable of saving a society doomed by history itself. Imperialism, the Political Report to the 27th CPSU Congress stresses, constantly generates an aggressive adventurist policy by virtue of its social nature.

The U.S. ruling circles are particularly attached to the policy of total opposition and military confrontation. They are noted for their aggressive military behavior, the growing militarization of policy and thought, and disregard for other people's interests. The United States is the locomotive of militarism.

The main aim of the CPSU's international strategy is extremely clear -- to give the Soviet people the opportunity to work in conditions of lasting peace and freedom. Socialism unreservedly rejects war as a means of resolving interstate contradictions and ideological disputes. The atmosphere of nuclear confrontation imposes the need for new approaches, forms, and methods of mutual relations between different social systems, states, and regions. That approach is adopted -- as the whole world can see -- by the CPSU. "In the future," the 27th party congress resolution on the CPSU Central Committee Political Report notes, "the main avenue of the party's activity in the international arena must continue to be the struggle against the nuclear danger and the arms race and for the preservation and strengthening of universal peace."

You cannot save and preserve peace unless you break -- resolutely and beyond recall -- with a way of thinking and acting which was built over the centuries on the acceptability and permissibility of wars and armed conflicts. What does this require?

Above all, it must be realized that not only nuclear war itself, but preparations for it -- that is, the arms race and the desire for military superiority -- objectively cannot bring anyone a political gain. Confrontation between capitalism and socialism can only flow in the form of peaceful competition and peaceful rivalry.

The large-scale Soviet initiatives set forth in the 15 January statement are designed to play a tremendous practical role in delivering mankind from nuclear weapons this century. The comprehensive peace program put forward by the USSR is in essence an alloy of the philosophy of creating a secure world in the nuclear and space age, and a platform of concrete actions. That means concrete actions, within a strict time frame. The Soviet Union intends to strive persistently for its implementation, regarding this as the central avenue of its foreign policy in the coming years. Soviet military doctrine is also in full accordance with the letter and spirit of the intitiatives put forward. Its thrust is purely defensive.

The USSR is in favor of taking weapons of mass destruction out of circulation and limiting military potential to within the bounds of reasonable sufficiency. However, the nature and level of those limits continue to be governed by the positions and actions of the United States and its partners in various blocs. The 27th congress of Lenin's party told the whole world: The Soviet Union does not claim greater security but will not accept lesser security.

It was stressed at the congress that it is extremely necessary, before it is too late, to seek a real solution to guarantee us against the transfer of the arms race to space. The "star wars" program cannot be allowed to be used as a stimulus to further the arms race and a barrier on the path to radical disarmament.

The USSR advocates the creation of an all-embracing system of international security. The fundamentals for such a system, forumulated by the congress, are a new contribution to world politics. They incorporate a series of measures in the military, political, economic, and humanitarian spheres. "Success in the battle against war," M.S. Gorbachev stated, "must be achieved without fail. That success will be a historic victory for all mankind, for every person on earth. The CPSU sees active participation in this battle as the very essence of its foreign policy strategy." The socialist community countries are with us in waging this battle for peace. The world communist movement, the forces of national and social liberation, and the mighty antiwar movement defend the peoples' security.

The party's course of preserving peace and delivering the world from the nuclear threat, a course so vividly demonstrated by the 27th CPSU Congress, is fully approved and unanimously supported by our country's working people and the servicemen of the Armed Forces. Soviet servicemen see it as their duty to further increase the defense capability of the beloved motherland, and the combat might of the Army and Navy, to achieve new successes in combat and political training, and to strengthen military discipline.

In a single formation with the fraternal armies of the other Warsaw Pact states, the Soviet Armed Forces watch vigilantly over peace and reliably ensure the security of the peoples of the socialist community countries.

ALLEGATIONS OF USSR TREATY VIOLATIONS CRITICIZED

PM201034 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 19 Mar 86 Second Edition p 3

[Article by Colonel of the Reserve V. Chernyshev, candidate of technical sciences: "In a Web of Lies"]

[Text] It has already become an established custom in Washington that, as soon as Congress starts debating the latest military budget, the decrepit scarecrow of the "Soviet military threat" is taken out of storage and dusted off, any tears are urgently patched up, and it is paraded at the head of a new attempt to wring out some cash for yet another round of the arms race.

This method was established way back by the late lamented John Foster Dulles. He was the author of the scenario to be followed when pushing through militarist plans: "In order to force the country to carry the burden linked with maintaining a large military machine," he wrote in the book "War, Peace, and Change," "it is necessary to create an emotional situation equivalent to a war mentality. It is necessary to paint a picture of an external threat.... This demands the development of an ideology of a hero-nation and a villain-nation to the highest possible degree, and also the cultivation of readiness for sacrifice among the population." The incumbent U.S. Administration has, so to speak, "refined" this scenario. Forgeries are now made not only when a new military budget is awaiting approval; the web of lies which, according to the Dulles recipe, is meant to create an "emotional situation" is being spun continuously. Reports, brochures, and "studies" are produced one after the other on the side of the ocean. The U.S. Administration is making considerable efforts to accuse the Soviet Union of allegedly violating the treaties and agreements it has signed.

The question is: Why are these mountains of lies piling up? The goals that are pursued are different: To diminish the significance of Soviet peace initiatives and simultaneously to whitewash the U.S. leadership's plans and deeds which are dangerous for mankind; to shift onto the USSR the blame for its own actions which undermine treaties and agreements; to cover up and even to justify the repudiation of accords which hinder Washington; and to prevent any constructive agreements between the USSR and the United States on curbing the arms race and improving the international situation.

It is typical that the slanderous campaigns in this direction center primarily on those treaty and agreement provisions which hinder most of all the implementation of U.S. military programs. For example, there is talk about some kind of "violations" by the Soviet Union of the ABM Treaty and the SALT II Treaty. Counting on people who are uninformed about the real state of affairs and are unfamiliar with the content of these treaties, official Washington does not even bother about the elementary logic of its own fabrications.

It is claimed, for example, that the USSR is implementing its own ABM program, that it is "ahead of" the United States in this sphere, and that it is possibly even "preparing an ABM system for the country's territory." And that the U.S. "star wars" program is nothing but a "response" to the Soviet work. Yet, when the White House advanced the "star wars" program 3 years ago, it was presented in a completely different fashion, as a new means which would supposedly render nuclear weapons "powerless and obsolete." It is not without reason that the Western mass news media immediately described the current "interpretation" as an "insult" to the authors of the U.S. program. The U.S. attempts to convince the world public that the USSR is supposedly conducting work on a "star wars" program, the British newspaper THE GUARDIAN wrote, contradict earlier statements by President Reagan, who presented his SDI plans as "a potential means of deliverance" from the threat of nuclear war.

Nor does the thesis about the Soviet Union being "ahead of" the United States stand up to any close examination. After all, the White House chief repeatedly promised to "share SDI technology" with the USSR. There is obviously something to be "shared." Yet, quite recently, speaking on nationwide television, the President openly declared in connection with U.S. space weapons: "We must translate our advantage at laboratory level into an advantage in specific weapons." All this goes to confirm yet again that it is the United States and not the USSR that is aiming to undermine the ABM Treaty by developing [razrabatyvaya] a large-scale ABM system with space-based components.

The situation is no better as regards the claims by U.S. Administration spokesmen that the USSR is allegedly developing [razrabatyvat] laser weapons. In connection with these fabrications, U.S. specialists recall that in March 1977 J. Carter, who was president at the time, at the clumsy prompting of the Pentagon accused the USSR of attempts to "blind" U.S. early warning satellites by using lasers. The Pentagon was subsequently forced to admit that soldering work on a major pipeline, which was taking place in the USSR, had been mistaken for "attempts to blind."

But the present U.S. Administration has learned nothing from this lesson. At times Washington finds itself in an awkward situation in its desire to "accuse" the Soviet Union. For example, in the latest report on "violations" of international commitments by the Soviet Union which was sent to the U.S. Congress in December 1985, the administration "made a revelation": "Only the USSR has an operational ABM system." And yet the existence of the ABM system deployed around Moscow is strictly in line with the ABM Treaty. Let us recall that systems with similar potential exist also in the United States, which is also in line with the treaty.

The "facts" cited in Washington's reports and studies are clearly meant for those who have never even looked at the text of the Soviet-American treaty. It was not without reason that Senator D. Bumpers, addressing the Senate recently, complained about the administration's so-called "reports" on the observance of agreements. A lack of information which creates confusion in Congress and throughout the country -- this is how he described the U.S. Government "reports." In his speech, the senator cited an example offering vivid evidence of the unscrupulousness of the administration, which is concealing the real state of affairs not only from the public but also from Congress. U.S. Secretary of Defense Weinberger, presenting the deployment of the SS-25 ICBM (Soviet codename RS-12M) in the USSR as a violation of the SALT II Treaty, "does not tell us that the Russians are dismantling older missiles in order not to exceed the ceilings set by the treaty," D. Bumpers concluded. For our party, let us add that in actual fact this is not a new but a modernized missile and that its specifications are fully in line with the relevant provisions of SALT II.

Incidentally, the White House has gotten into a real mess as a result of its claims about alleged violations of SALT II provisions by the Soviet Union. And at least twice, at that. Let us recall that initially, in late 1985, the U.S. representative on the Permanent Consultative Commission, which was officially set up by the sides for verification [proverka] of the observance of agreements that have been concluded, confirmed in the U.S. Congress that the USSR honors the commitments it has made. Later on, in February 1986, in the report "The Military Position of the United States" which they submitted to Congress, the Joint Chiefs of Staff cited "evaluations by intelligence organs" indicating that the Soviet Union fully honors its commitments. "It would be grave irresponsibility on the part of the administration," THE NEW YORK TIMES wrote in this connection, "to officially accuse the Soviet Union of violating the quantitative ceilings imposed by SALT II."

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The originators of all kinds of insinuations in the U.S. leadership are champions of the interests of those circles which obstruct the full application of treaties and agreements previously signed by the United States. Actually, they make no secret of their aspirations. "We must examine the possibility of a real breakdown of the ABM Treaty," Weinberger declared. His assistant Perle also called openly for the SALT II Treaty to be "discarded as unnecessary for America."

This policy is dangerous for the entire world. Today mutual relations between the USSR and the United States will depend largely on whether the positive elements achieved in the seventies will be successfully preserved. The Soviet Union does not pursue military superiority, and it has no incentive to repudiate or violate accords elaborated on the basis of equality and identical security. It is official Washington that continues to seek ways to achieve military superiority over the USSR. A reminder must be issued once more: The Soviet Union is in a position to make an adequate response to any challenge that people want to make. And if we are forced to, the response will be made.

VASILYEV ON 'INSANITY' OF U.S. ASAT TEST PLAN

PM191123 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 18 Mar 86 First Edition p 5

[G. Vasilyev article: "Aiming...At the Stars"]

[Text] New York 17 Mar -- To what subterfuge will the Pentagon not resort in its maniacal desire to turn space into a battlefield of the future! Last year the U.S. Congress passed a resolution banning the testing of American antisatellite weapons for as long as the Soviet Union observed its declared moratorium on such tests. It would seem that a ban is a ban. But this has not been the case here. Cunning people in C. Weinberger's department are seeking detours so as to continue tests already begun in the United States.

Since the Congress decision declares a ban on the launching of missiles aimed at targets in space, Pentagon "experimenters" have chosen themselves another "worthy target." As THE NEW YORK TIMES recently reported, the U.S. Air Force has decided to shoot at the stars. As the antisatellite missiles fires from F-15 fighters have a self-guiding device and stars have infrared radiation, these distant luminaries suit those in the Pentagon perfectly. It is planned to shoot at the stars twice in the coming months. It is proposed to spend more than $330 million on the program to develop, create, and test antisatellite weapons in 1988.

Among Americans concerned with the future of our planet there is no doubt that launching missiles aimed at the stars is the same as testing antisatellite weapons when missiles are fired at target in the atmosphere or in space.

"Errant caravans in an expanse of cast incandescent bodies," as a poet once said. From time immemorial the distant stars glimmering out of the depths of the universe have stirred people, inspired writers and visionaries, and engendered in man the desire to break loose into the expanse of space. For the Pentagon, however, a star is just another suitable target for a missile. There is something symbolic in this characterizing the insanity of militarists.

EDITORIAL VIEWS WARSAW PACT UNITY GOALS

PM241230 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 22 Mar 86 Second Edition p 1

[Editorial: "Unbreakable Fraternal Alliance"]

[Text] Progress in our age is rightfully identified with socialism. World socialism is a powerful international formation, relying on a highly developed economy, a solid scientific base, and a reliable military-political potential. Socialism is a real opportunity available to all of mankind, an example of orientation toward the future. Having turned into a powerful moral and material force, socialism has demonstrated the prospects opening up for world civilization.

Relations of socialist internationalism have become embodied most fully in the socialist community. The community countries belonging to CEMA and the Warsaw Pact, united by shared fundamental interests and objectives and by bonds of broad multifaceted coooperation, coordinate their actions in international affairs. The community augments the strength of fraternal states in socialist building and helps to ensure their reliable security.

The objective need for the increasing rapprochement of socialist countries stems from the very nature of socialism. The CPSU attaches paramount importance to the development and strengthening of friendly ties between the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries. This is inscribed in the new edition of the CPSU Program which was adopted by the 27th congress. The utmost strengthening of friendship and the development and improvement of ties between the Soviet Union and the socialist community countries are objects of the party's particular concern. The ruling communist and workers parties are the driving force of their comprehensive cooperation. During the days when the 27th CPSU Congress was in session in our motherland's capital, meetings took place between M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and leaders of fraternal parties and states. The unity of views of the socialist community countries' communists on the basic issues of our time was emphasized again in the course of these meetings, and their joint determination to continue to strengthen cohesion by all means and to struggle actively for peace and international security was expressed with renewed force. The new edition of the CPSU Program says Soviet Communists advocate the increasingly efficient interaction of the fraternal countries in the international arena with due consideration for the situation and interests of each one of them and for the community's common interests.

Important reserves for the socioeconomic development of each one of the socialist countries are contained in the development of socialist economic integration and in participation in CEMA's work. The CPSU advocates the further deepening of socialist economic integration as the material base for the socialist countries' cohesion.

The peoples of the socialist states have to resolve their creative tasks under complex circumstances. The socialist world is opposed by a strong and dangerous enemy -- imperialism -- which, in today's conditions, poses a growing threat to mankind's very existence. Imperialism and imperialism alone bears the responsibility for wars and conflicts in our century, for unleashing and constantly whipping up the arms race, and for opening up new avenues for it. Pursuing their aggressive policies, the imperialist states have intensified their military preparations still further in the last few years. The United States is intensively deploying ground-, air-, and sea-based strategic offensive forces and is engaged in the development [razrabotka] of weapons based on new physical principles. The number of U.S. medium-range missiles in Europe is growing. The United States is carrying out a restructuring of its Armed Forces with a view to considerably enhancing their combat potential. Similar military preparations are also in progress in other NATO countries. All this creates a real threat to the Soviet Union and the other socialist states.

This is why, as long as the imperialist NATO military bloc exists, the CPSU deems it necessary to make every possible contribution to improving the activity of the Warsaw Pact as an instrument of collective defense against imperialism's aggressive aspirations and of joint struggle for lasting peace and the expansion of international cooperation. The USSR Armed Forces are developing as an inalienable component of the combat community of the armies of the socialist Warsaw Pact states. The strengthening of the fraternal armies' unity and their joint training to defend the gains of socialism will remain the subject of constant concern on the part of the party of Soviet Communists. The fraternal armies' servicemen firmly guard peace and socialism in a unified combat formation.

Vast importance is attached to socialist community countries' unity and cohesion. On a worldwide scale they serve the great goal which is rallying increasingly broad masses of people from all continents and inspiring them to energetic actions. This goal is to prevent a nuclear catastrophe for the sake of preserving life on earth. Thanks to the persistent efforts by the fraternal socialist states, thanks to their cohesion and will for peace, real preconditions are emerging in our age for resolving the most immediate and fundamental task of our time -- to avert the threat of nuclear war, halt the arms race and primarily the nuclear arms race, and move on to disarmament. In accordance with the socialist community's general strategic course of a decisive turnabout from confrontation to cooperation, the Soviet Union has put forth a radical and, at the same time, realistic program which envisages the total elimination of nuclear weapons everywhere by the year 2000 given the banning of the creation [sozdaniye], testing, and deployment of space strike weapons. This program, supported by all socialist community countries, has opened up a reliable path toward liberating mankind from the threat of destruction.

The regular session of the Warsaw Pact States Foreign Ministers Committee which ended a few days ago in the Polish capital emphasized anew that, in the present complex international situation, particular importance attaches to the constant strengthening of the Warsaw Pact states' unity and cohesion. The states represented at the session reaffirmed the importance of their defensive alliance for ensuring their security and peaceful development and for strengthening European and universal peace. They will continue to cooperate closely in international affairs and in the elaboration and implementation of a coordinated peace policy.

Welded together by close and unbreakable unity, the socialist community countries have become the most prestigious force of our time, without which it is impossible to resolve a single question of world politics. It is a firm bulwark of peace on earth, the most consistent defender of healthy, peaceful, and democratic principles in international relations, and the main obstacle in the path of imperialist reaction.

IZVESTIYA CITED ON OPEC COUNTRIES PLIGHT

LD232126 Moscow TASS in English 1935 GMT 23 Mar 86

[Text] Moscow March 23 TASS -- Brisk trade and feverish machinations with oil tankers in full load, with securities and contracts have been going on in recent days in the oil spot markets in Rotterdam and London, the newspaper IZVESTIYA says today. Millions of barrels of oil have changed hands tens of times by telephone and telex. Many businessmen have pocketed a million of dollars a day on these operations.

The goings-on in the oil markets are being attentively followed not only by the owners of such oil giants as Exxon, British Petroleum, Royal Dutch Shell, Mobil Oil, Texaco and other companies, but also political leaders in Washington, London, and other Western capitals. Incidentally, they are doing their utmost in an attempt to [word indistinct] the market and ensure a further drop in the prices. The U.S. Administration proposes, for example, that a moratorium be introduced on an increase in the strategic oil reserves, which are to make 750 million barrels, and are now 500 million. Besides, they plan to sell to the private sector three reserve oil fields belonging to the U.S. Navy -- which, according to its designs, will result in a new drop in the prices.

In an attempt at countering the West's offensive in the oil markets, the newspaper IZVESTIYA continues, the oil ministers of a number of Latin American, African and Persian Gulf Arab states have held regional meetings. The participants in the meetings have urged the oil exporting countries to intensify their efforts for stabilising the market. Meanwhile the oil ministers of Algeria, Libya and Iran proposed that the OPEC countries should stop oil output for two weeks every month.

The current instability in the world market, it is pointed out in the joint communique, is a result of the political pressure and the pre-planned strategy in order to deal a blow to the gains of the oil-exporting countries and deprive them of the oil revenues they badly need for economic and social development.

Well, this conclusion is borne out by the facts, the newspaper points out. As a result of coordinated pressure brought to bear on the OPEC countries, and other oil-producing states, the West has succeeded in ensuring a sharp and considerable cut in the prices. Over the recent four months alone, the prices of oil have declined from 28 to 12 dollars per barrel. As a result, almost all the oil producing countries of the developing world began encountering enormous financial and economic difficulties, and many of them, including Nigeria, Mexico and Indonesia, have found themselves on the verge of a financial crisis.

A triple blow has been dealt, as a matter of fact, to the oil-producing countries. First, their currency earnings from oil output are sharply declining. Second, they began suffering big losses as a result of a considerable drop in the U.S. currency rate, since the accounts for oil are settled in dollars. Third, they are forced to stop prospecting for oil, considerably slash spending on development and slash hundreds of thousands of workers from oil fields, oil refineries and other plants, the newspaper IZVESTIYA stresses.

WEEKLY 'INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS ROUNDTABLE'

LD231727 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1230 GMT 23 Mar 86

["International Observers Roundtable" program with Nikolay Agayants; Spartak Beglov, APN political observer; and Vitaliy Sobolev, All-Union Radio foreign policy commentator]

[Text] [Agayants] Good afternoon, comrades. With snowstorms, winds, unexpected frosts, and snowfalls winter is departing -- very unwillingly, but still it is departing and making way for spring. That's the state of affairs in nature. As for our planet's political climate, unfortunately, a genuine warming-up is still a long way off. This is confirmed by the events of the past week which have reflected like a mirror the two principle trends, the two courses of development of contemporary international relations. On one hand, the course of the Soviet Union and the other socialist states towards curbing the giddy arms race on earth and preventing its extension into space and towards averting nuclear war and achieving detente; on the other hand, the adventurist, militaristic, and aggressive course of the United States and its partners in various types of military blocs. Here are just a few of the most vivid examples of this confrontation: The communique of the meeting of the committee of the ministers of foreign affairs of the Warsaw Pact participant states and the documents of the meeting of NATO's nuclear planning group; the Soviet Union's continuing peaceful research of the universe and Washington's striving by hook or by crook to draw its allies even further into its dangerous 'star wars' program; the USSR's proposals on the peaceful settlement of regional conflicts and the Reaganite doctrine of neoglobalism in action.

[Sobolev] I would like to add, Nikolay Ivanovich, that the difference between the two approaches and the two trends is reflected in this week's major internal political events in the socialist and the bourgeois countries. On one hand, there are the large plans for peaceful construction that were discussed at the meetings of the supreme bodies of state power of Bulgaria and Hungary, and at workers' assemblies, for example, in Mongolia where the basic guidelines for social and economic development over the new 5-year-period have been put forward for discussion. They have been discussed in the course of preparations for the fraternal parties' congresses -- the Czechoslovak Communists' forum, for example, begins tomorrow.

On the other hand are the militaristic budgets depriving the poor of what little they have left. At the moment draft state budgets are being discussed in the United States and Great Britain and are being strongly criticized in those countries. In the United States, the Senate Budget Committee has cut the share earmarked for the Pentagon by $25 billion, but still what remains is 3 percent more -- and 3 percent is a very considerable amount -- than the United States current military appropriation.

In Britain, the Labor leader Kinnock has called the Conservatives' financial program a present to the rich and even a Conservative MP -- Latham -- has admitted that the draft does not take into account the interests of the poor. I am going into this, perhaps in detail, because the details make it possible for each citizen of a given country and not only diplomats and journalists, to experience for themselves, so to speak, the difference between the two foreign policy courses. The Central Committee's Political Report to the 27th congress states that the CPSU's international strategy is determined by the basic tasks of the country's economic and social development. The principle objective of this strategy is to guarantee the Soviet people the opportunity of working in conditions of stable peace and freeedom -- such is the party's primary and key demand of our foreign policy.

[Agayants] The routine meeting of the committee of the ministers of foreign affairs of the Warsaw Pact participant states held in Warsaw on 19 and 20 March, once again affirmed that the international situation continues to remain extremely tense and dangerous.

The ministers expressed serious concern over the fact that the arms race and particularly the nuclear arms race is being stepped up and that Washington is undertaking specific actions to expand it into near-earth orbits. One cannot fail to be alarmed, states the communique adopted in Warsaw, that the deployment of Pershing-2 and cruise missiles in West Europe is not ceasing and that the imperialist policy of strength and interference in the domestic affairs of other states is continuing. All this, of course, is increasing the danger of a world-wide nuclear disaster threatening the destruction of life on our planet.

The Warsaw Pact participant states have made an urgent appeal to the NATO member countries -- above all to the United States, Great Britain and France -- to display realism and responsibility in the aim of achieving accords taking into account the interests of both sides and all other states on the radical reduction of nuclear weapons and their subsequent elimination and on the prevention of an arms race in space. So, as we can see, the struggle against the nuclear danger, against the unbridled build-up of neclear weapons and the struggle to preserve and consolidate peace, remain the main thrust of the foreign policy activity of our party and our state. But what about the West? How is it reacting to the Soviet peace initiatives?

Further, it is well known that the 27th CPSU Congress gave, as we say, a start in life to the extremely important idea of creating a comprehensive system of international security. Its main foundations, as formulated in the Political Report of the CPSU Central Committee to the congress, are of an all-round, integrated and constructive nature and touch on the military, political, economic, and humanitarian aspects of the modern concept of international security. As has already been noted in numerous comments in the foreign mass information media and in speeches by prominent politicians and public figures in various countries, this is a very important step for achieving an accord on today's cardinal problems.

[Sobolev] At this point, Nikolay Ivanovich, it is evidently worth mentioning once again the very significant clause of the Central Committee's Political Report to our party's congress which talks about the essence of contemporary capitalism. Imperialism is also pushed into translating the competition between the two systems into the language of military confrontation by inner springs -- by its social and economic essence itself. By virtue of its social nature imperialism constantly generates -- that is, engenders -- an aggressive and adventurist policy. So states the report.

[Agayants] Yes, Vitaliy Sergeyevich. And this is all especially characteristic of U.S. politics where the right wing -- the monopolist bourgeoisie -- sees the whipping-up of international tension as a justification for the growth of military expenditure, global claims, and interference in the domestic affairs of other states.

[Beglov] The thing is that by the development of events Western governments were faced with the question of whether they are willing to part with nuclear weapons and whether they are ready for practical steps which would lead to the creation of firm foundations for international security. And when the leaders of the United States and the other NATO countries were faced with a test of their political will they began to take recourse to, I would say, a sort of hackneyed kind of maneuvering. They started to claim that the Western stance is allegedly a stance of realism, whereas the proposals of the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries are a propaganda stance. However, in these clever dodges of all kinds, aimed at proving the unprovable, they expose themselves in the sense that they are disavowing their own policies, their own stances, to which at one time they practically, I would say, swore their loyalty before the whole world.

Let us think back to what happened in Geneva after the summit meeting between the USSR and United States leaders when President Reagan was taking his leave of Comrade Gorbachev.

He said that before leaving Geneva he wanted to stress that he was firmly resolved to make use of any opportunity in order to create a safer world. Let us recall what British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher announced from high governmental rostra a year before that when the USSR Supreme Soviet delegation led by Comrade Gorbachev was being received in London, in December 1984. She said that there is no sense in balance at ever higher levels of arms; we are entering into disarmament negotiations fully resolved to make them succeed, we do not want to have heaps of nuclear weapons but want negotiations to be held between the United States and the Soviet Union. At that time everyone was campaigning for the rapid elimination of both American and Soviet medium range missiles in Europe and everyone swore loyalty to the cause of radically reducing nuclear weapons.

But what is happening now in light of what has been said in Washington over the past few weeks in connection with the Soviet proposal on ending nuclear tests, the Soviet Union's extension of the unilateral moratorium on nuclear explosions, and in connection with the appeal from the participants of the Delhi Six to the two powers not to sanction any new nuclear tests before the summit meeting? Statements of a totally different kind are now emanating from Washington, saying that we will evidently have to get used to nuclear weapons for a long time to come and that nuclear tests must continue because as long as nuclear weapons exist they have to be improved.

[Agayants] Within the course of this dangerous policy of Washington's which is giving rise to just indignation on the part of all people of good will on our planet no matter where they live and no matter the views to which they adhere, within the course of this policy there is the new explosion of a nuclear device under the code-name "Glencoe" at the proving ground in Nevada and there are the preparations which are taking place at full speed for the testing of an x-ray laser triggered by a nuclear explosion which is scheduled to take place in April. All these are links in a single chain and they are evidence of the fact that the U.S. Administration, in response to the good-will steps taken by the Soviet Union, is making a point of ignoring all calls for a halt to nuclear tests and for the achievement of most important accords in this field.

[Beglov] And so if one has to say what really are the positions now clashing with each other, I would put it this way: One position is that of reason and realism and this is reflected in the Soviet proposals; and there is also the position based on tricks, provisos and conditions in which one can clearly see an unwillingness on the part of the Western powers to part with nuclear weapons and reduce the level of military confrontation both in Europe and globally.

[Agayants] That is all quite right, Spartak Ivanovich and it seems to me that one circumstance of no mean importance in the implementation of such a hard line by Washington -- judging by latest events -- is also the calculation the United States is making upon being able to use the tension that exists in the world to put pressure upon its allies in order to make them as obedient and unlikely to give trouble as possible. This is also confirmed by the visit to London and Bonn of Caspar Weinberger, the Pentagon boss and it is confirmed in full measure by the results of the NATO Nuclear Planning Group, which has ended its work in the West German town of Wuerzburg.

[Beglov] Yes, both in Wuerzburg and generally as far as Weinberger's arrival in West Europe is concerned, I would say that a kind of open trading has taken place around the question of what the British leadership is going to get in return for its support of SDI and what the FRG is going to get for the fact that it, too, is going to become involved in the implementation of this program. And overall the deal took place in this sense: That the U.S. secretary of defense essentially gave a pledge that the United States will support in every way this inflexible position on the part of Great Britain on the need to build up British arsenals and on the fact that this issue has blocked the first stage proposed by the Soviet Union for nuclear disarmament, namely the elimination of U.S. and Soviet medium range missiles in Europe.

Furthermore some things about this deal simply hit one in their shamelessness. For example, some figures in the FRG had this to say: We want very much to get involved in the Strategic Defense Initiative program and we will try to convince our public that we will gain in the technological sense and will get access to U.S. technology, but at the same time we will try to distance ourselves from the military aspects of this project.

[Agayants] In this connection, Spartak Ivanovich, I would like to make the following observation: Today space is the most advanced frontier of mankind, whose fate depends to a large extent upon the routes that are going to be taken by the further mastery of space around the earth and the purposes for which it is going to be used: Peaceful ones, which are capable of giving people colossal economic and scientific and technical advantages; or military ones, which will lead to an intensification of the arms race and the growth of the threat of nuclear war. Our position, the position of the Soviet Union, is of the utmost clarity, consistent and unambiguous: We are in favor of wide cooperation in the name of peace and in the name of clear skies over our planet. This was confirmed yet again by the work done by Vega automatic stations on the Venus-Halley's comet project and it is being confirmed, too, by the continuing space watch of Leonid Kizim and Vladimir Solovyev on the Mir-Soyuz T-15 manned complex.

[Sobolev] The idea of a "star peace" instead of "star wars" -- put forward by the Soviet Union -- the Soviet proposals on international cooperation in space exploration; and the real cooperation which is still continuing despite Washington's displeasure is attractive to people, including American space specialists. For example, look at the extent to which they are writing in the United States about the prospects for an international manned flight to Mars: Americans consider -- and I believe they do so with good reason -- that it would indeed be good to carry out this grandiose undertaking jointly. American scientists invited to Moscow to observe the progress of the flight by the space stations to Halley's Comet returned home, according to the American journal US NEWS AND WORLD REPORT, struck not just by the technical achievements but by the spirit of international cooperation that pervades the Vega project. The journal noted with satisfaction that the apparatus for analyzing the dust was made available for this project by American scientists. The United States did not send its own station to the comet. They have not thrown all their strength and their resources into the Pentagon's space taxi-cabs, as they call the shuttle-craft in the West. Just listen the tone of what was said, for example, by President Smith of the American Astronautical Society, about Soviet space exploration: They possess phenomenal launch capabilities. While (?Johnson), a space equipment specialist from the (?Teledyne Brown Engineering) Company put it like this: No country has a greater right to take pride in its achievements in space exploration than the Soviet Union. And one ought to add that this is because our country has always wanted to see space as something peaceful, to see it as an arena for cooperation between different countries.

[Agayants] As you know, comrades, in Washington and in some Western Europe capitals they hold a diametrically opposite point of view: There they favor the active militarization of space and strive at any price to achieve implementation of the notorious Strategic Defense Initiative, that is to say the selfsame "star wars." Things are threatening to become irreversible and for that reason the following words were spoken from the platform of our congress in the political report; let me remind you of them: It is essential in the extreme, before it is too late, to seek out real solutions that would guarantee that the arms race will not be carried over into space. One cannot allow the "star wars" program to be used as a stimulus for a further arms race and as an obstacle on the path towards radical disarmament. The Soviet peace proposals, including the latest ones, are aimed directly at solving this important problem in a practical key.

[Beglov] At the same time American, generals and politicans -- like Abrahamson, the leader of the SDI project -- are rubbing their hands and telling their colleagues in Washington that they have in fact obtained agreement to the kind of contribution to the trategic Defense Initiative by the British and by the FRG representatives that will make the development [sozdaniye] of some types of space strike weapons cheaper and more rapid.

[Agayants] An admission of the utmost cynicism.

[Beglov] In that sense, if we are going to talk about cynicism, then if one goes over to Tokyo one can quote a Japanese industrialist who said that of course we understand that this idea is connected with war: We would not like to be involved in the killing of innocent people. But just think: How can we pass up the advantages we may get from taking part in this project? Please excuse us but we cannot avoid this temptation. And the result here, you know, is like this: They exchange bows; they curtsey to the public; but in actual fact they make this shameless, crafty, hypocritical, and cynical justification of their involvement in an adventure that might cost mankind very dearly.

[Agayants] The military force in which official Washington puts its trust to such an extent, in order to hold on to its positions, to defend the interests of monopoly capital in general and the military-industrial complex in particular and to hamper the national liberation movement and progressive reforms in the countries that have been liberated, this military force is today clothing itself in a political doctrine which has been given the name of the doctrine of neoglobalism. To the accompaniment of loud phrases about the defense of freedom and democracy throughout the world, this appropriates to the United States the right to interfere in the internal affairs of other states; to seek the subversion and removal of regimes that are not to Uncle Sam's liking; and to give assistance to all manner of anticommunist freedom fighters amongst which the White House numbers the Afghan dushmans, the Nicaraguan contras, and other bandit-like rabble. This doctrine is nothing other than the concept of crude force, diktat, and brazen plunder. In his special message to Congress, President Ronald Reagan stated that the Armed Forces of the United States are allegedly the decisive element in the creation of an appropriate climate in the world. It's not one of the very latest thoughts, we have to admit, but the stubbornness with which they hold on to it in Washington cannot fail to cause alarm.

[Beglov] I would say, Nikolay Ivanovich, that there are various doctrines, but only one policy. There have been so many kinds of labels we remember that were pinned to this policy, which you have just now described in its various manifestations. They called it both the doctrine of pushing back communism and the doctrine of mass retribution. They struck on the label of the doctrine of U.S. vital interests and the doctrine of national security. A new name -- neoglobalism -- was for a while a kind of popular craze. Now the White House has already started talking about the doctrine of supporting democratic revolutions in other countries, so that one aim and one policy is hidden behind all of this in the final analysis.

In my view, it was the famous American publisher and capitalist Henry Luce who was the most frank of all those who ever gave this policy the name it deserves. At the height of World War II, he said that the United States would obtain ideal opportunities to establish world domination in the conditions after the war. It was then that all things were really called by their proper names. After it started to become more and more difficult to conduct this policy, all kinds of labels came pouring out, like from the horn of plenty. I think that the Americans themselves have demonstrated the continuity of this policy, whatever the labels or names used to conceal it.

President Reagan called 20 March -- when the U.S. House of Representatives declined the request to allocate $100 million for military aid to the contras, used by Washington to try to overthrow the legitimate Government of Nicaragua -- a "black day." But on the very day when the government's request was being discussed, it was recalled in Congress, not by chance, that there had already been one resolution adopted by Congress that had brought the United States and the whole world into a very dangerous situation, which was very costly to mankind -- in the first days of August 1964.

[Sobolev] The Tonkin Gulf Resolution?

[Beglov] Exactly -- when the U.S. Congress almost unanimously, with only 2 dissenting votes, with 498 in favor, voted for the notorious Tonkin Gulf Resolution, giving the U.S. President the authority for direct military interference in Vietnam. That was indeed a black day in history, from which the dirty war started. It ended ingloriously for the Americans. Heavy losses and destruction ensured for the Vietnamese people, who defended their right to a homeland and independence.

Universal peace was also threatened. And you have to realize that when this direct link between the two dates and the two resolutions was made in the U.S. Congress, then, generally, you can draw the conclusion that the lessons of the past are not, after all, passing without a trace. Of course, this does not mean that the U.S. Administration won't resort to new ways and means of arm-twisting in order to get what it wants. In no way should this weaken the vigilance of all peace-loving forces. This is very well understood both in Nicaragua and in other countries of Central and Latin America.

[Sobolev] The case of the hundred millions has occupied a large place on the pages of the foreign press for a long time now, and especially this week. This is natural if we take into account how much importance was given it by the U.S. Government. It looked as if it did not have a matter more important in the past few days. Speeches by American leaders, in no matter what connection, if any, they were made, were about one and the same thing: for the future of America, it was vitally essential to spend these $100 million on the Somozists. But here I want first and foremost to note the position of the Nicaraguans -- calm, full of dignity, and confidence in themselves. They naturally gave attention to the skirmish between the White House and Congress, or more accurately between the Republicans and the Democrats, since for them, for the Nicaraguans, allocations mean new destruction and deaths. But Nicaraguans clearly defined their attitude to the debates: With or without the $100 million, the American mercenaries will not consolidate themselves on Nicaraguan soil.

As far as the political sum total is concerned, which so occupied Western journalists, as to who was in the lead, the White House or its opponents; how many Congressmen were for and how many were against; then the Nicaraguans -- I can't find better word -- scorned it. Only an official protest was announced in connection with the fabrications in President Reagan's speech on television and the attacks on Nicaragua. A multitude of unverified information, as our American colleagues delicately expressed themselves, was brought down on the heads of both the American public and wavering Congressmen who hadn't decided how to vote over the $100 million so as not to harm their own political futures, whether to give their vote for hire to the White House or whether to think that the autumn elections were not far off, when they would need the votes of those Americans who don't want a new Vietnam in Central America. And of course, the Democrats are striving to get points in the struggle with the political opponent -- and in this case, the administration is giving them great opportunities.

[Agayants] Incidentally, Vitaliy Sergeyevich, in a special report prepared on the eve of hearings in Congress by a research group of the Democrat faction in parliament, it says, I quote: In the last 5 years the United States has spent more than $500 million on the secret wars against Nicaragua and on ensuring combat operations of contras trying to overthrow the Sandinist government. The present administration, this document stresses, is waging a war in order to destroy the Government of Nicaragua, and uses any pretext to enlist support to achieve this aim. All the propaganda machine was put into motion and the master of the White House himself, as you have already said, beat, it seems, all the records when he gave the reasons for his anti-Nicaraguan intentions.

[Sobolev] And I think, Nikolay Ivanovich, that the excessive zeal of the representatives of the administration played the role of a boomerang. Even people indifferent to this problem of $100 million start to worry when they see how openly they are being deceived. Well the main thing is not, of course, the decision to which a dozen congressmen came to. Let's take a look at who is against supporting the Somozists: We'll start with the greater half of the Congressional House of Representatives. Even more important -- far more important -- is the fact that the majority of Americans -- and quite a few opinion polls have been conducted recently -- are against the United State's undeclared war in Central America. Virtually the rest of the world is opposed: Both the socialist one and the bourgeois one. Latin America, from presidents to workers to students, is opposed. This finds expression in words of protest, demonstrations, and demarches addressed to the Washington authorities.

[Beglov] In spite of the heaps of falsehoods and absurd fabrications that have been characteristic of the last few weeks across the ocean, in this matter the moment of truth has now indeed arrived. The U.S. interventionist policy has appeared in its true light, and all of this seems to have been especially timed to coincide with the moment when the question of whether there will be a turn for the better in international relations is being resolved. It is particularly important to stress this because now the whole world is evaluating the positions of both the United States of America and the Soviet Union in the light of those accords, in light of those starting points, for resolving international problems, on which the highest representatives of the two states agreed.

[Agayants] In Geneva.

[Beglov] In Geneva.

[Agayants] Returning to what was said earlier, comrades, I want to note the following: Ministers of participant countries of the Warsaw Pact who assembled in the Polish capital stressed that in today's complex international situation, the constant strengthening of unity and cohesion between participant states of that Pact is of special significance. The states represented at the session once again confirmed the importance of their defense alliance for ensuring security and peaceful development, for strengthening European and universal peace.

They will continue to work together closely in international affairs, in working out and implementing the agreed policy of peace and security and international cooperation. Note was also made of the significance of developing mutual economic ties and deepening and perfecting cooperation within the framework of CEMA, the most speedy implementation of the comprehensive program of scientific and technological progress for the successful implementation of plans for social and economic development, for strengthening the international positions of socialist states, and for attaining the aims of their peace-loving foreign policy course. On that note, comrades, we end our program. Thank you for your attention. All the best to you.

INITIAL REACTION TO U.S.-LIBYAN FIGHTING

Libyan Vessel Hit

LD242259 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 2240 GMT 24 Mar 86

["An Aggressive Action by the United States Against Libya" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Washington, 25 Mar (TASS) -- An American squadron concentrated near the shores of Libya has opened fire on the Libyan coast. Aircraft of the U.S. naval air force fired "Harpoon" class missiles at a Libyan vessel. As the White House maintained, it was allegedly threatening American ships, carrying out provocative maneuvers in close proximity to the Libyan shores. A White House representative stated that the vessel is sinking and that none of the crew has been saved.

Libya Protests to UN

LD250716 Moscow TASS in English 0635 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Tripoli March 25 TASS -- Kamal Hasan al-Mansur, secretary of Libya's People's Bureau for External Ties, sent on Monday a note to the United Nations Secretary General Perez de Cuellar stating that the unceasing American military exercises off Libyan shores as well as the constant threats of armed aggression against the Jamahiriyah are an open encroachment on the sovereignty, freedom and security of the Libyan people. Such actions by Washington create a serious danger to peace in the region and in the whole world. Kamal Hasan al-Mansur asked the United Nations secretary general to distribute the note as an official document of the United Nations General Assembly.

'Outrage' in U.S. Cited

LD250658 Moscow TASS in English 0651 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Washington March 25 TASS -- The U.S. military's act of piracy off the Libyan coast, which has violated all norms of international law, has caused outrage in the United States itself.

Senator Jim Sasser said there was no doubt that the U.S. maneuvers off Libyan shores had been of a provocative nature.

Senator Alan Cranston said, for his part, that the developments near the Libyan coast had demonstrated how easily the United States could launch direct military activities.

The chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Dante Fascell, said that the presence of U.S. naval ships off Libya had been a source of grave concern and that by having started military activities against Libya without any consultation with Congress, the President had broken the Military Powers Act.

Well-known U.S. politician Jesse Jackson said it was crystal-clear that the United States had been out to provoke military confrontation with Libya. He said that the administration was simply obsessed with plans to bomb Libya and Nicaragua and that this was part of a very dangerous foreign policy.

'Armed Aggression' To Continue

LD250746 Moscow TASS in English 0730 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Washington March 25 TASS -- TASS correspondent Nikolay Turkatenko writes:

The United States has committed an act of armed aggression against Libya. The White House spokesman Larry Speakes and Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger announced on Monday that on March 24 the Saratoga, one of the three aircraft carriers off the shores of Libya, had dealt a missile strike at two missile sites on the territory of Libya and knocked them out. They contended that the strike was dealt in response to the launching of missiles from those sites at American planes that were in the air space over the Gulf of Sidra which, as is known, has been declared by Libya to be within its territorial waters. They admitted that the missiles allegedly fired by the Libyans had not damaged the American planes. They also said that American carrier-borne aircraft had fired "Harpoon" missiles at a Libyan patrol boat and sunk it.

Speaking at a news conference called urgently in the Pentagon in a bid to justify the aggression, Weinberger added that one more patrol boat had been hit and seriously damaged. Weinberger tried to justify that that act of undisguised armed aggression against Libya by saying that Libyan boats had allegedly posed a serious threat to U.S. ships that are known to be part of a naval armada consisting of three aircraft carriers and forty escort ships, and that those boats had staged "hostile acts." It was noted here at once that Weinberger's "line of argument" closely resembled that used by Washington for inventing the so-called "Tonkin incident" as a pretext for launching a dirty war against Vietnam.

The aggression against Libya caused anxiety in U.S. Congress. ABC television reported that a number of its members had expressed perplexity about the fact that the action had been taken without a congressional sanction.

Weinberger also said that the U.S. Navy would continue the "exercise" off Libya for as long as needed, a statement which left open the possibility of broader armed aggression against that country. Speakes and Weinberger actually confirmed that U.S. intention when they once again publicly declared Libya's Government, which has been elected by its people, to be an outlaw. It is also well known that Washington has long been mooting plans to attack Libya, while the C.I.A. has, on President Reagan's instructions, been contemplating plans to "eliminate" leader of the Libyan Jamahiriyah Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

The armed aggression against Libya has been launched against the backdrop of preparations for a direct U.S. aggression also against Nicaragua, with U.S. ships cruising close to the shores of that country all the time.

Attacks Called 'Terrorism'

LD251224 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1130 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Nikolay Agayants commentary]

[Text] According to a report put out by JANA, the Libyan information agency, U.S. warplanes, on 24 March, violated the Jamahiriyah's airspace over the Gulf of Sidra. After the Libyan antiaircraft defenses had opened fire on the violators, the U.S. Air Force fighter-bombers from the Coral Sea, Saratoga, and America aircraft carriers shelled a suburb of the town of Sidra on Libya's Mediterranean coast with air-to-surface missiles.

A Libyan civilian vessel was also subjected to a bombing raid. Here is a commentary by Nikolay Agayants:

Thus, everything that Washington has so carefully been concealing and camouflaging from the eyes of the world public over the past few months, everything that has been covered up by the Reagan administration's hypocritical statements about the peaceful nature of the U.S. Navy's Mediterranean operations, has now burst into the daylight.

From provocations, blackmail, the threats against Tripoli, from the ceaseless muscle-flexing show off a sovereign state's coast, the Pentagon has graduated to an open use of force against the Libyan Jamahiriyah's Government, which is not to Uncle Sam's liking.

Those representatives of the Washington administration who did not wish to give their names and who, only a few days ago, had forecast that the events would develop in this way, turned out to be right today. Le me recall that one of them told a CBS correspondent the current round of military games, in which more than 30 warships of the U.S. 6th Fleet are taking part, would, he said, go beyond the framework of normal military exercises and that the Pentagon brasshats would attempt to provoke Libya, to obtain a pretext to inflict a counterstrike against that country's military facilities In the past we only talked about it, but now we are ready for resolute action, said the frank and anonymous U.S. official in the CBS interview.

Even though the U.S. President himself and circles close to him denied in every way that they had intentions of this kind toward Libya; even though the White House alleged that the U.S. Navy warships, as has recently been the case in the Black Sea, simply availed themselves of the international right of peaceful passage, the secret has come out into the open.

Currently, assuming the air of injured innocence, Washington is attempting to place the entire responsibility for what has taken place upon Tripoli. However, it is easy to see through these attempts.

In its desire to inflict an exemplary punishment upon a recalcitrant Libya, for the edificatinn of other unruly countries. The United States has, yet again resorted to the practice of international terrorism that has now been elevated by Washington to the rank of state policy and constitutes an integral part of the notorious doctrine of neoglobalism.

The dangerous and adventurist nature of the U.S.' anti-Libyan policy is giving rise to serious alarm and concern among all people of goodwill. An indignant world public angrily condemns the Pentagon's aggressive operations in the Mediterranean.

USSR-Libya Society Head Cited

LD251241 Moscow TASS in English 1158 GMT 25 Mar 86

["U.S. Barbarous Act Condemned" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow March 25 TASS -- The chairman of the board of the USSR-Libya Friendship Society has censured the U.S. act of aggression against Libyan as international banditry.

Speaking in a TASS interview, Pavel Demchenko pointed to the preposterous nature of Washington's claim that Libyan boats "posed a threat" to U.S. warships. "The United States has long been looking for a pretext to strike at Libya," he explained.

"The U.S. military's criminal actions against Libya, which are part of the U.S. policy of state-backed terrorism, are putting the situation in the region on the verge of a military conflict with unpredictable implications," Demchenko said.

The Soviet people condemn the U.S. criminal actions against Libya, he said, adding: "We confirm our solidarity with the Libyan people upholding the sovereignty and national independence of their country," he emphasized.

Destroyer Headed for Gulf

LD251228 Moscow TASS in English 1212 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Paris March 25 TASS -- The Connolly missile destroyer of the U.S. Sixth Fleet today left the Spanish port of Palma de Majorca and steamed for the Gulf of Sidra, FRANCE PRESSE reports. The destroyer carries advanced electronic equipment and weapons to fight submarines and planes.

The news agency, quoting well informed sources in Spain, says that the missile destroyer will join the America, Coral Sea and Saratoga aircraft carriers and other warships of the U.S. Navy involved in the American act of aggression off the Libyan shores.

TASS Cites al-Qadhdhafi

LD251401 Moscow TASS in English 1328 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Tripoli March 25 TASS -- The leader of the Libyan revolution, Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, told the JANA news agency in response to the White House statement about the U.S. intention to continue manoeuvres and acts of armed provocation in the Mediterranean till April 1: "We also state that we will continue to offer valiant resistance. At this moment the Jamahiriyah is defending not itself but the whole of the Arab nation and its future."

U.S. Pressure Linked to Chad

PM241244 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 Mar 86 Morning Edition p 4

[Report by own correspondent V. Nezhamov: "United States-Libya Using Strong-Arm Pressure"]

[Text] Algiers -- The U.S. 6th Fleet, whose presence and actions have have brought medieval piracy back to the Mediterranean, has carried out a new series of maneuvers off the Libyan coast.

Aircraft based on the aircraft carriers Saratoga and Coral Sea flew all over the Gulf of Sidra, entering the zone controlled by the capital's airport. The provocative aims of the operation -- the third this year -- are obvious.

It is an interesting fact that the White House is striving to make more active use than before of the Chad factor in its aggressive plans in respect of Tripoli. It was no accident at all that the third series of maneuvers coincided with an attempt by the forces of the H. Habre regime, acting under the French "umbrella," to battle its way into northern Chad and rout the forces of G. Oueddei's National Unity Transition Government. The attempt failed. But the head of the present regime in Ndjamena, installed, according to THE WASHINGTON POST, by the CIA, has evidently not abandoned the idea of settling the question by forces of arms, thereby blocking OAU efforts to find a solution at the negotiating table.

The danger of the present U.S. plans in a pincer grip, exhaust it using strong-arm pressure, and cause economic difficulties, but also to provide a theoretical and legal foundation for all the actions to destabilize a sovereign state in the shape of R. Reagan's "doctrine of neoglobalism."

The U.S. President's "theoretical principles" are being put into practice not only by the espionage department, but by other services as well. The secret "208 committee," set up for this purpose, THE WASHINGTON POST notes, has as members people from the White House, the State Department, the Pentagon, and the CIA. The "committee's" job is to coordinate the buildup of secret and semimilitary operations against progressive regimes in Asian, African, and Latin American countries.

REAGAN'S TV INTERVIEW SHOWS 'MALICE, HATRED'

LD241837 Moscow TASS in English 1724 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Washington March 24 TASS -- TASS correspondent Nikolay Turkatenko reports:

President Ronald Reagan of the United States has again resorted to the hackneyed device of laying the blame at somebody else's door. In an ABC interview he referred to the Soviet Union as the greatest threat to peace. Reagan also stated that he did not regret his pronouncement about the Soviet Union's being an "evil empire." Such an attitude, full of malice and hatred with regard to the Soviet Union, was described by the President as a realistic one.

At the same time Reagan extolled his administration's efforts ostensibly aimed at easing tension in relations between the United States and the Soviet Union. The real direction of the administration's efforts is irrefutably evidenced if only by such facts as the nuclear test carried out in Nevada on Saturday despite the Soviet moratorium on all nuclear explosions, as well as the draft U.S. military budget for the 1987 fiscal year to the tune of almost 330,000 million dollars, a truly astronomical one, and the speeding up of the "star wars" programme the goal of which, as is admitted by authoritative U.S. specialists, and by the administration itself, too, is to ensure U.S. military superiority over the Soviet Union. The present administration does everything in practically all directions to enhance its confrontational policy with regard to the USSR. This is also evidenced, not in the last place, by the U.S. delegation's obstructionist stand at the Soviet-U.S. talks in Geneva on nuclear and space arms.

NAVAL COMMANDER COMMENTS ON BLACK SEA INCIDENT

PM241231 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 Mar 86 Morning Edition p 3

[Interview with Admiral of the Fleet V.N. Chernavin, commander in chief of the Soviet Navy and USSR deputy minister of defense, by correspondent V. Lukashin: "The Navy Displayed Self-Control"]

[Text] Lukashin: The press has already reported the gross violation of a state border by U.S. warships on 13 March. Could you give a more detailed account, Comrade Commander in Chief, of what actually happened off the south coast of Crimea?

Chernavin: Gladly. The following events occurred. Two U.S. ships -- the cruiser Yorktown, with missiles on board, and the destroyer Caron sailed through the Bosporus into the Black Sea on the afternoon of 10 March. The Soviet frigate Ladnyy was in the area at the time.

Its commander, Captain 2d Class P. Zhuravlev, immediately reported to Red Banner Black Sea Fleet Command that U.S. ships had entered the Black Sea, and he received the order: Continue observation.

I must point out that U.S. naval warships have entered the Black Sea on several occasions in the past and carried out reconnaissance. But on this occasion the Americans behaved with particular effrontery: at 1111 on 13 March the cruiser Yorktown and the destroyer Caron violated the USSR state border and entered the area south of the Crimean peninsula.

The commander of the Soviet ship immediately warned the commanders of the U.S. ships that they were violating USSR territorial waters and demanded that they leave immediately. The answer from the U.S. ships was: Warning received. But despite this, the Americans held their course. Then USSR KGB border ships and naval aircraft appeared on the scene. In view of the blatantly provocative nature of the U.S. ships' actions, command gave the order to increase the combat readiness of naval strike forces. Ships and aircraft were immediately prepared for action.

I believe that the commanders of the U.S. ships carried out an objective assessment of the situation and realized that their continuing presence in our waters might lead to serious consequences. At 1332 the Americans left USSR territorial waters having been there for over 2 hours in all.

What can one say about the incident? The incident in the Black Sea entitles one to say with confidence that the U.S. warships' actions were premediated and were patently provocative. THE NEW YORK TIMES wrote about it, incidentally. It plainly stated that the order to carry out the provocative act had come from the joint Chiefs of Staff on behalf of U.S. Defense Secretary C. Weinberger. The U.S. ships' violation of the USSR state border off the south coast of Crimea was carried out within the framework of an extensive U.S. espionage operation on orders from the Pentagon.

I must mention that all seafarers know that peaceful passage by foreign warships through USSR territorial waters is permitted only in specially authorized coastal areas, announced by the Soviet Government. By the way, there are no such areas in the Black Sea off the coast of the Soviet Union.

A few words about the actions of the Red Banner Black Sea Fleet. As commander in chief of the Soviet Navy, I can say that the Soviet naval seamen again demonstrated a high degree of combat readiness. They displayed coolness and self-control. The fleet's strike forces were ready to put an immediate stop to the U.S. warships' provocative actions in Soviet waters. But we were clearly aware of the full gravity of the possible consequences and again we displayed patience and self-control.

U.S. CALL FOR SOVIET UN CUTBACK VIEWED

PM241511 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 24 Mar 86 First Edition p 5

[Report by own correspondent G. Vasilyev: "Tyranny Must Not Be Permitted"]

[Text] New York, 23 Mar -- The crude tyranny of the U.S. Government against UN states inconvenient to it and against an international organization hated by U.S. right-wing circles is causing mounting alarm and indignation in the UN ranks. At its latest session the Committee for Liaison With the Host Country continued its discussion of the question of the United States' new hostile action against the permanent missions of the USSR, Belorussia, and the Ukraine.

Yu.V. Dubinin, the USSR's permanent UN representative, who addressed the session, ledged a resolute protest against the U.S. Government's unlawful demand for a reduction in the numerical strength of the Soviet missions' personnel. He noted that the question under discussion is of great importance because it affects the very foundation of the United Nations, its prestige, its rights, and the observance of legality in that organization.

It is a case of the United Nations now being confronted with a case of gross and impudent tyranny by the United States -- the United Nations' host country -- the Soviet UN representative said. The U.S. Administration has in the past repeatedly demonstrated its disregard for its commitments to the United Nations. It is now encroaching on the sovereign rights of UN states.

The Soviet delegation, Yu.V. Dubinin continued, would like to stress most resolutely that it is a case here not only of Soviet-U.S. relations but also of the tyrannical stance that the U.S. Administration adopts by striking a blow against the rights of all UN members, a blow against the rights and prerogatives of the United Nations as a whole. This action by the United States is not an ordinary petty act of provocation, of the kind to which the U.S. authorities have frequently resorted, but a large-scale act of political subversion against the United Nations.

The Soviet delegation would like to emphasize again that the permanent missions of the UN states are accredited not under the U.S. Government but under the United Nations, as a result of which U.S. claims to arrogate the right to establish the numbers of these missions' personnel are utterly illegal.

During conversations in the corridors of the skyscraper on the bank of the East River these days you can sense the profound anxiety generated by the latest cowboy attacks by the Washington apologists of a "from a position of strength" policy against the United Nations. The majority of delegates understand that if the missions of the USSR and a number of other countries are the target of the U.S. authorities' tyranny today, then tomorrow the illegal discriminatory measures could descend on the mission of any other country. There should be no place in the most representative international organization, the United Nations, for a policy of tyranny, threats, and blackmail historically unacceptable in our nuclear missile age!

CHANCES FOR RIVIVAL OF DETENTE, SUMMIT ASSESSED

LD231725 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1458 GMT 23 Mar 86

[From the "International Panorama" program presented by Nikolay Shishlin]

[Text] One fundamental question runs constantly through the whole diverse series of international events: Will it be possible to revive the process of detente? Will the period ahead be a period which could be described as the second stage of detente? Well, in answer to that question, I would like to say that of course, detente should encompass not only the political sphere, but also the sphere connected with such a sensitive field as that of armaments' political detente outside of military detente will once again turn out to be unviable. Although, of course, everything starts with a serious political dialogue. The Soviet Union has not only proposed such a dialogue, but has also put forward specific proposals aimed at ridding mankind of nuclear and chemical weapons, at leaving space peaceful, at bringing about serious cuts in conventional weapons, and at establishing what is called an all-encompassing system of international security.

The Soviet Union definitely declares its interest in continuing contacts with the United States, including at summit level. Here, however, one must shed a little light on the subject. To judge by all events, certain circles in the United States assume that the Soviet Union has a greater interest than the United States in the next summit meeting. This is, of course, a profound delusion. The United States must understand that they have no less interest, at least, than the Soviet Union in holding such a meeting.

Further, one gets the impression that the United States is set upon falling into the traditional error, taking up all sorts of athletic poses which make no impression on Moscow whatsoever; apart from a negative impression of course. In general, this is no way of resolving international problems -- going at the problem like a bull at a gate instead of thinking about it and seeking a compromise.

In any case, the Soviet Union does not do this, and has no intention of doing so.

Furthermore, what is needed is not a cosmetic meeting, with cosmetic aims, but a businesslike meeting, a serious meeting, which would ensure that progress could be made in at least some key problems on which the destiny of strengthening international security depends.

Therefore, speaking of tomorrow, I would put it this way: a possibility for a turn for the better does exist. Furthermore, there is a need for a turn for the better, a commanding need. But as regards the conditions for a turn for the better, they must of course be created. And the creation of these conditions depends on the Soviet Union and on other socialist countries. It depends upon the active position of the developing states. It depends upon the position of the developed capitalist countries, whether they be NATO members or outside NATO. And, of course, it depends upon the United States. Thus, conditions for a turn for the better must be created. In this difficult and complex work of creating conditions for a turn for the better, what is needed is firmness and flexibility in equal measure, adherence to principles and readiness for sensible compromise. That is, what marks the peaceful program put forward by the 27th CPSU Congress; precisely those qualities, that is, marking the conclusions of the recent session of the committee of foreign ministers of the Warsaw Pact member-states.

REAGAN DOES 'NOT RULE OUR' U.S. TROOPS IN NICARAGUA

LD240801 Moscow TASS in English 0710 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] New York March 24 TASS -- U.S. President Reagan reiterated the intention of his administration to seek the overthrow of the lawful Government of Nicaragua. "The cancer that has to be excised is Nicaragua," he said in an interview to the American magazine TIME, making it clear that the USA would continue to escalate military aid to the anti-Nicaraguan terrorist bands. Reagan actually made an ultimatum to the Nicaraguan Government. "The Sandinistas have to look at one of two choices: the possibility of a military defeat and being totally overthrown, or a choice of having a political settlement in which... they would have to give up this monopoly of power they have."

The U.S. President did not rule out either the possibility that American troops would be sent in to suppress the Nicaraguan revolution. There might come a day when American troops will be sent in, he threatened.

REAGAN REAFFIRMS COMMITMENT TO AID AFGHAN REBELS

LD221125 Moscow TASS in English 1040 GMT 22 Mar 86

[Text] Washington March 22 TASS - by TASS correspondent Aleksandr Shalnev.

The White House rejects the idea of finding a political settlement for the situation around Afghanistan. This has been confirmed by President Reagan who issued a proclamation designating March 21, 1986 as "Afghanistan Day" in the United States.

The document makes it clear that the United States intends not only to preserve, but also to expand support for the anti-Afghan bandits who are hypocritically described as "freedom-fighters" in Washington. "We reaffirm our commitment to support this just struggle." Reagan proclaimed.

This will mean, in fact, an escalation of the undeclared war conducted against Democratic Afghanistan by the United States and several other countries with the hands of Afghan counterrevolutionaries, the war described by THE WASHINGTON POST as the biggest covert operation of the CIA since the time of Vietnam.

According to press reports, the United States has already spent nearly one billion dollars on the war in Afghanistan which has become a key "function" in the implementation of Ronald Reagan's notorious doctrine of "neoglobalism."

The presidential proclamation shows that by increasing assistance to the terrorists, guilty of killing innocent Afghans, including old men, women and children, the administration is stepping up a disinformation campaign with a view to creating a psychological background for new White House and CIA requests for funds to buy weapons and equipment for Afghan counterrevolution. It is within the framework of the campaign that a "delegation" of Afghan counterrevolutionaries recently visited Washington for a widely publicised meeting with Reagan.

NORAD SUPPLEMENTS U.S. PREPARATIONS FOR SDI

LD251113 Moscow TASS in English 1025 GMT 25 Mar 86

["NORAD -- Washington's 'Trojan Horse'" -- TASS item identifier]

[Text] Moscow March 25 TASS -- TASS commentator Aleksey Kvartsev writes:

The United States and Canada have renewed their agreement on the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) once again. But its renewal this time took place amid sharp political discussions initiated by the Canadian opposition to the Conservative Mulroney government.

The peace movement and many experts and politicians in Canada are openly worried about NORAD being gradually switched over from the task of providing deterrence to that of preparating for war. The U.S.-Canadian accords to modernize NORAD, which were reached a year ago, can only be seen in present-day conditions as closely related to the "Strategic Defense Initiative" (SDI).

Even on Parliament Hill in Ottawa members of the opposition parties are warning that NORAD is a "Trojan Horse" of the "star wars" program.

A masterplan for the North American air defense, which was drawn up by the Pentagon way back in 1982, provided for modernizing NORAD and the revamping work has now been started by both sides. In the future, in case the U.S. goes ahead with its deployment of a new ABM system with space-based elements, NORAD and, consequently, Canada will be inevitably required to put in an even more vigorous effort.

Canadian observers point out the possibility of U.S. air defense fighters accommodated at Canadian air fields in the extreme north being fitted out with anti-satellite weapons. High-ranking spokesmen for Canada's National Defense Ministry are not making a secret of the fact that the United States will find it most desirable in the immediate future if systems meant to intercept ballistic missiles in the midcourse phase of their flight are sited in Canadian territory.

Is Ottawa's renunciation of official involvement with the SDI, which was voiced last fall, a guarantee that Canada will not find itself eventually drawn into preparations for "star wars" through NORAD?

The stubbornness shown by the Mulroney government in its objections to the restoration to the NORAD agreement of the provision that Canadian participation in it does not presume any commitment on Canada's part to contribute to the development of active ABM defenses (a provision withdrawn from the agreement when it was extended in 1981) has not as yet made broad public circles in Canada convinced of this.

There is a close intrinsic relationship between NORAD, with Canada taking an active part in its fundamental modernization, and U.S. preparations for war in outer space. They are mutually supplementing aspects of the U.S. single strategic plan devised by the Pentagon. The U.S. politico-military leadership apparently is very keen to share responsibility for the consequences of its implementation, which will be extremely dangerous for mankind, with Canada.

ARTICLE VIEWS U.S. AGENDA IN PERSIAN GULF

PM201221 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 20 Mar 86 Morning Edition p 5

[Konstantin Geyvandov "Political Observer's Opinion": "Counter to Common Sense"]

[Text] As was to be expected, the February turn in the Iran-Iraq war connected with the start of the new offensive by the Iranian troops led to another buildup of Washington's military preparations in the Persian Gulf region. The U.S. General T. Jenes whom THE WASHINGTON POST calls "responsible for potential military operations in this region" spent several days travelling visiting one country in the region after another. Then he had talks with Pentagon representatives. A symptomatic fact if you consider that the troops under Jenes command belong to the U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM).

The Iran-Iraq war, which is now into its sixth year, is causing untold hardship and suffering to the peoples of both countries. Nonetheless there is as yet no end in sight, unfortunately. Moreover, it is increasingly bursting out of the framework of a conflict between two neighboring states and becoming a factor of grave destabilization in the region. The war is a direct threat to international peace and security because it creates favorable soil for implementing the imperialist plans of the United States and its NATO allies in the important and resource-rich Persian Gulf region. Washington immediately took advantage of its outbreak to confirm its claims to this "zone of vitally important U.S. interests" and came out with threats to intervene, including by military means, to defend these "interests."

As the conflict acquires an increasingly bloody nature the shadow of U.S. interference is growing longer. The statements by leaders of the U.S. Central Command and the Pentagon's practical activity in the Persian Gulf region leave not the slightest doubt on this score.

The peoples of Iran and Iraq have felt imperialist and colonial rule. And will it not be a malicious irony of fate if the conflict between these two states now leads to the return of U.S., British, and French Armed Forces armed to the teeth?! Yet Washington and the other NATO capitals have already acquired a "suitable" pretext for intervention -- preserving the security of maritime communications and the "friendly" countries of the Persian Gulf.

It is understandable, however, that the real motives for the United States' actions are not to help the Persian Gulf countries but to assert and strengthen its own presence in this strategically important part of the world. The United States has been seeking this for many decades. Now it can glimpse a "felicitous" opportunity to realize this goal. The Pentagon is now keeping a naval squadron of approximately 30 ship ships, including an aircraft carrier, close to the Persian Gulf. Three or four of these ships take turns entering the Gulf.

In the military operation that the U.S. Administration is undertaking in the Persian Gulf region, far from the least place is given to the armed forces of its NATO partners -- Britain and France. Since the conclusion of the Camp David deals of sorry memory and the creation of the "multinational force" for basing in Sinai under the Pentagon's auspices, the Americans have been trying to involve in their adventures in the Arab world as many allied countries as possible in order to create a semblance of "international efforts." After Sinai this was the case in Lebanon and now it is the Persian Gulf. The press has reported that back in February 1984 consultations were held between Washington and London after which British warships were dispatched to the Persian Gulf region. A French naval squadron also took up positions there.

But this far from exhausts the perils lying in wait for the Persian Gulf states because of the systematic buildup of the military presence of the United States and its NATO allies. Washington and its Western partners are spurring on the arms race there, compelling the Persian Gulf countries to make arms purchases costing many billions and to undertake broad military buildup to the detriment of their economic, social, and cultural development plans. This circumstance is being used by the West as a convenient pretext for seeking to obtain military bases on the territory of these states.

And another thing. It is not enough that the continuing war is draining Iran and Iraq. It has caused a serious split in the Arab world, weakening its potential for resisting the main threat, which emanates from the U.S.-Israeli "strategic alliance." It is no accident that Washington and Tel Aviv are hastening to take advantage of such "favorable" opportunities to impose new separate deals on individual Arab countries, using these deals to supplant a just and all-embracing Near East settlement. The same can be said of the U.S. Administration's actions aimed at destabilizing and overthrowing the Libyan Government, which in practice are meeting with no effective rebuttal or resistance from the other Arab states.

Those are the far-reaching consequences of the continuing carnage, counter to common sense, between two neighboring countries -- Iran and Iraq. If we add to everything that has been said the fact that it is taking place in the immediate vicinity of the Soviet Union's borders, it is easy to understand why the USSR, from the very first days this armed conflict arose, has denounced it and advocated the immediate cessation of combat operations between the two countries.

We believed and continue to believe that this war has nothing in common with the interests of the Iranian or Iraqi people but brings dividends only to U.S. imperialism and its partners.

I am deeply convinced that there are no vexed questions between Iran and Iraq that could not be resolved by peaceful political means, by sitting down at the conference table. If, of course, there is no talk of things like the export of the "Islamic revolution." That is why the Soviet Union supports all the initiatives of the Nonaligned Movement, the United Nations, the Arab League, and the Islamic Conference Organization aimed at halting hostilities between Iran and Iraq and initiating peace talks. So far only the Iraqi leadership has responded positively to these initiatives.

In late February the UN Security Council came out with a new initiative. In a unanimously adopted resolution it urged Iran and Iraq to undertake an immediate cease fire and to halt all hostilities on land, at sea, and in the air and immediately withdraw all their troops to internationally recognized borders. An appeal has also been made to both countries immediately to embark on a discussion of all problems of the conflict through the mediation or with the aid of any other means for a peaceful solution of disputes.

This new initiative from the world community of nations accords with the fundamental interests of the Iranian and Iraqi peoples.

SCHOOLGIRL LEADS PEACE DELEGATION TO U.S.

LD201956 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Report by S. Starodomskaya; from the "Vremya" newscast]

[Excerpt] A delegation of the Soviet Peace Defense Committee left today for the United States. The youngest and most important member of the delegation is 11-year old Moscow schoolgirl Katya Lycheva.

Before her departure she had meeting at the International Friendship Club at the Pioneer Palace. Having chosen Katya as their ambassador, the children asked her to pass onto U.S. schoolchildren drawings, letters, and whole epistles about the most important thing -- how to strengthen friendship and preserve peace.

These ideas are also close to members of the U.S. public organization "Children as Peacemakers", which has awarded the special prize of a trip to America to one of the Soviet girls. This is a prize for active participation in the antiwar movement and it is named after Samantha Smith. Katya is going to America.

CANADA'S CLARK EXPLAINS CENTRAL AMERICAN POSITION

LD221445 Moscow TASS in English 1249 GMT 22 Mar 86

[Text] Ottawa March 22 TASS -- Military force cannot resolve the Central American problem, Canada's Foreign Minister Charles Clark has declared in parliament. The regional problems should be resolved by way of economic and social reforms, not militarily, he observed.

Such is the Canadian Government's position on Central America, and it has been made known to the U.S. Administration, the minister pointed out.

IZVESTIYA REPORTS ARKHIPOV RETURN FROM PRC

PM211240 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 Mar 86 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Visit Ends"]

[Text] A Soviet delegation, headed by I.V. Arkhipov, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, returned to Moscow from Beijing on 21 March after the first session of the Soviet-Chinese Commission on Economic, Trade, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation.

The delegation was greeted at the airport by K.F. Katushev; chairman of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, and PRC Ambassador to the USSR Li Zewang.

COMMENTATOR CRITICIZES U.S. ARMS SALES TO TAIWAN

OW232344 Moscow in Mandarin to China 0200 GMT 23 Mar 86

[Station commentator Shakov commentary]

[Text] RENMIN RIBAO published on its front page a statement issued by the Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman. The statement said: The Chinese Government has always firmly opposed the sale of arms and technical equipment for manufacturing sophisticated weapons, including nuclear weapons, by any country to Taiwan. In this connection, our station commentator Shakov has the following to say:

The Chinese Government's position is founded on valid reasons and basic norm of international law. Because Taiwan is an inalienable part of China, any relations with that island alone are absolutely not permissible. Arms sales to Taiwan would be the most outrageous interference in China's internal affairs, but those sales are actually taking place. The United States alone sells about $1 billion in weapons and modern military technical equipment to Taiwan annually. The NATO allies of the United States have followed in its footsteps.

It should be pointed out that the United States has repeatedly declared that it recognizes China's sovereignty over Taiwan, and has promised to sever political, economic, and military ties with the Taiwan authorities. However, it has actually failed to do so. Washington and Taipei have essentially continued to exchange diplomatic representation but with a different name. Moreover, high-ranking officials from both sides have kept calling on each other. For example, Goldwater, a close fried of the U.S. President and an influential senator, visits Taipei almost every year, and holds political talks with the leaders there. U.S.-Taiwan trade has grown continuously. Incidentally, the volume of U.S.-Taiwan trade is more than double of that of U.S.-China trade.

It is noteworthy that China's concern over sale of technical equipment for producing nuclear weapons to Taiwan, according to the Western press, is well founded. On the day the Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman issued the statement, Japan's ASAHI SHIMBUN quoted well informed sources in Washington as saying that Taiwan had already produced its first atomic bomb, made last year in cooperation with the Republic of South Africa and Israel, which provided Taiwan with necessary uranium and technology. In its report THE WASHINGTON POST said that the nuclear cooperation was carried out with the tacit approval of the U.S. Government.

All of this proves that it has become a habit of the United States to interfere in other countries' internal affairs.

FURTHER ON SOVIET-DPRK COOPERATION CONSULTATIONS

Talks Completed

PM241625 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 Mar 86 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report under the general heading: "A High Rating"]

[Text] Pyongyang, 22 Mar -- The 20th session of the Soviet-Korean intergovernmental consultative commission on economic, scientific, and technical matters was held in Pyongyang from 17 through 21 March. The session examined questions connected with the fulfillment of the sides' mutual pledges in the sphere of trade, economic, scientific, and technical cooperation. Measures were outlined to accelerate the assimilation of planned capacities at enterprises constructed in the DPRK with Soviet assistance, on improving the quality of their products, and on increasing supplies of them to the Soviet Union.

The sides discussed the prospects for the development of cooperation between the USSR and the DPRK in 1986-1990 arising out of the agreements signed in Moscow recently on trade turnover and payments and on economic and technical cooperation. Trade turnover between the two countries, counting equipment and supplies for facilities being constructed in the DPRK with technical assistance from the USSR, will more than double compared with the last 5-year period. It is planned to construct facilities of importance to the DPRK national economy, such as a nuclear power station, a thermal electric power station, a plant producing heat-resistant articles, textile combines, and others. Assistance will continue in the further expansion of the Kimcha'ek Metallurgical Combine. Cooperation in the light industry sphere will increase considerably. The commission made specific decisions aimed at implementing the sides' accords on questions of the further development of trade, economic, scientific, and technical cooperation. The session took place in a friendly, businesslike atmosphere. A protocol was signed on the results of the commission's work. The Soviet delegation was headed by Ya. P. Ryabov and the Korean delegation by Kim Pok-sin.

Kim Il-song Receives Ryabov

PM241633 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 Mar 86 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report under the general heading: "A High Rating"]

[Text] Pyongyang, 22 Mar -- Today Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Workers Party of Korea (WPK) Central Committee and president of the DPRK, received Ya. P. Ryabov, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, who is head of the Soviet delegation that has been attending the 20th session of the Soviet-Korean intergovernmental consultative commission on economic, scientific, and technical matters.

Kim Il-song sopke highly of the results of the 27th CPSU Congress. He said that the WPK and Korean people welcome and support the new peace initiatives formulated in the CPSU Central Committee Political Report. Satisfaction was expressed at the results of the commission session and the development of economic cooperation between the two countries and some questions were touched on relating to further expanding cooperation in order to solve urgent national economic tasks in the interests of the Soviet and Korean peoples. Kim Pok-sin, candidate member of the WPK Central Committee Politburo and vice premier of the DPRK Administrative Council; Pak Nam-ki, secretary of the WPK Central Committee; and N.M. Shubnikov, USSR ambassador to the DPRK, participated in the conversation, which took place in a warm and friendly atmosphere.

JARUZELSKI ADDRESSES FRIENDSHIP RALLY IN VILNIUS

PM131540 Vilnius SOVETSKAYA LITVA in Russian 1 Mar 86 p 2

[Unattributed report on speech by Wojciech Jaruzelski, first secretary of the PZPR Central Committee and chairman of the Polish Council of State, at a Soviet-Polish friendship rally at the V.I. Lenin Calculators Plant in Vilnius on 28 February]

[Text] Esteemed comrades! Dear friends!

I cordially greet you on behalf of our party and on behalf of the Polish public.

I am very pleased with the opportunity to meet you, representatives of socialist Lithuania's working people. We were greatly impressed by innovations at the "Sigma" calculator association, its production indicators, and the great skills and sincerity of people working there.

We follow with great approval the Lithuanian SSR's successes in the development of industry, agriculture, education, science, and culture. We were greatly impressed by the development of Vilnius, the scale of its urbanization, the nature of new microrayon construction, and the concern for the preservation of historical monuments of the past. All this is the result of the Lithuanian people's selfless labor, and credit for it is due to the wise policy of the Lithuanian Communist Party -- a firm link of the CPSU.

Esteemed comrades! The traditions of Polish-Lithuanian ties reach far into the distant past. Memories of the unforgettable victory at Grunwald and of battles fought together against Tartar conquerors and crusaders are still alive. Glorious pages were written together by the best sons of our peoples -- patriots, democrats, and revolutionaries.

Conflicting interests have never divided the peoples of Poland and Lithuania. The conflicts that developed in the past were the result of policies followed by the propertied classes -- the magnates and the bourgeoisie. This has been consigned to oblivion once and for all.

The establishment of people's power in Poland and Lithuania and the switch to socialist development made it possible to discard everything that once divided us. Everything that brings us closer and unites us is constantly being and will be augmented.

Comrades! The last 40 years have been a period of the consolidation of bilateral friendly ties, which are strengthening in virtually all spheres of life. Soviet Lithuania is making a weighty contribution to the development of Polish-Soviet economic cooperation by supplying Poland with a number of industrial and agricultural commodities. They are predominated by output of the machine building, metal and timber processing, and meat and dairy industries. In its turn, Poland exports to Lithuania many products of the electronic and sewn goods industries and agricultural machines.

The mutually advantageous exchange of industrial and food goods takes place primarily within the framework of Polish-Soviet agreements. Cooperation between Lithuanian and Polish border regions has been deepening for many years now. The fact that direct contacts are developing between enterprises, institutions, education establishments, and general educational schools also deserves a high assessment. The traditional cultural ties, which cover virtually all spheres of creative activity, have entered a qualitatively new stage.

Modern works of Lithuanian literature, including works by Eduardas Mezhelaytis, Yustinas Martsinkyavichyus, Alfonsas Belyauskas, and Eugeniyus Matuzyavichyus, are available to Polish readers. Lithuanian readers are familiar with many works of Polish literature, including books by Wojciech Zukrowski, Jan Parandowski, Zenon Kosidowski, and Miron Bialoszeski.

The even closer familiarization with one another is served by the joint commemoration of imporant historical anniversaries, book exhibitions, movie shows, concerts by amateur artistic collectives, and sport, scout, and Young Pioneer camps. It has already become traditional to hold joint Polish-Lithuanian friendship festivals.

These multifaceted good-neighborly relations bring our peoples closer together and help to establish new contacts. We intend to continue marching along this path, to deepen, expand, and enrich the mutual cooperation.

Dear friends! You have many citizens of Polish nationality living in the Lithuanian SSR, particularly in Vilnius and its suburbs. They play an active part in social and economic development and in the development of Soviet Lithuania's science and culture.

We are familiar with the work of the newspaper CZERWONY SZTANDAR and of the faculty for Polish studies at the Vilnius teacher training institute. Your republic has on its territory over 100 schools providing teaching in the Polish language. Polish amateur artistic collectives exist.

There are also many millions of people of Polish nationality living in capitalist states. Yet, there are neither educational establishments training teachers for Polish schools nor any good will toward the educational and cultural requirements of citizens of Polish nationality in any country -- however rich -- in the West, where people hold forth about alleged sympath for Poland and wring their hands about the fate of Soviet Poles.

Your internationalist concern for the common cultural heritage and your Leninist class attitude toward the nationalities question are a credit to the Lithuanian Communist Party and your whole people.

Esteemed comrades! We are meeting during the momorable days of the work of the 27th CPSU Congress. This is an historic event for your country, an event of vast international significance for further progress and for the preservation of peace on earth.

Working people in our country followed with keen interest the progress of discussion of the precongress documents. The atmosphere of this discussion offered tangible proof of the strength and prestige of Lenin's party and of the determination of Soviet peoples to implement the great new tasks.

In 4 months' time the PZPR will sum up the results of its activity at its 10th congress and will map out the strategy for our motherland's long-term development.

The enemies' plans have never materialized and never will materialize. Poland is and will remain a socialist state, a firm link of the Warsaw Pact and CEMA. No one will ever succeed in undermining the fraternal international ties uniting the Polish People's Republic and the USSR.

We are developing socialist democracy, consolidating the state, and restructuring the national economy consistently, according to the line of socialist rebirth elaborated by our party's ninth congress.

We are solving various problems and overcoming difficulties. They are the consequence of mistakes allowed to occur in the seventies and also of various anti-Polish actions still being taken by the United States and other capitalist countries.

The interests of our state, of the Polish working class, and of the whole Polish people are inseparably linked with socialism. This is the main lesson we have been taught by history. We will always remember it.

Dear friends! I want to thank you cordially, dear comrades, for your hospitality and for the chance to visit your remarkable enterprise. We wish you further successes in implementing the tasks to be set by the 27th CPSU Congress and the tasks mapped out by the 19th Lithuanian Communist Party Congress.

Long live the unbreakable alliance and fraternal friendship between the Polish People's Republic and the USSR!

May the all-around international cooperation between the PZPR and the CPSU develop and strengthen!

Long may the friendship and cooperation between the Polish People's Republic and the Lithuanian SSR and between the fraternal Polish and Lithuanian peoples live and strengthen!

Long live peace and socialism!

FURTHER ON SHEVARDNADZE VISIT TO POLAND

Meets Friendship Officials

LD191452 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1400 GMT 19 Mar 86

[Text] A friendly meeting between Comrade Shevardnadze, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, and USSR foreign minister, and members of the Presidium of the main board and the aktiv of the Polish-Soviet Friendship Society took place in Warsaw today. The guest was warmly welcomed by Wronski, chairman of the main board of this society.

Returns to Moscow

LD201913 Moscow TASS in English 1810 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] Moscow March 20 TASS -- Eduard Shevardnadze, a member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and foreign minister of the USSR, returned to Moscow from Warsaw today.

He stayed in Poland on an official friendly visit at the invitation of the Polish Government and attended a meeting of the foreign ministers' committee of the Warsaw Treaty member states there.

Eduard Shevardnadze was met in Moscow by Viktor Chebrikov, a member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the State Security Committee of the USSR, and other officials.

PRAVDA CITES PZPR PLENUM COMMENT ON CPSU CONGRESS

PM191513 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 17 Mar 86 First Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Powerful Impetus"]

[Text] Warsaw, 16 Mar -- Utterly dedicated to peace and social progress, socialism is today demonstrating with renewed force its youth and vitality, its creative strength, and its ability to attain new targets. It is confirming its conformity to the laws of social development and its moral advantage over a system devoted to the supremacy of the predatory mechanisms of big capital, PZPR Central Committee First Secretary W. Jaruzelski said at a Central Committee plenum here. Poland is currently in the invigorating mainstream of socialism, geared to the future and surmounting various obstacles and weaknesses as well. It is a question of our confirming this by the results of common work, not tolerating any form of stagnation and exploiting more fully socialism's creative potential.

The 27th CPSU Congress gave powerful impetus to these processes. The congress has been of enormous significance both for the Land of the Soviets and for all the states of real socialism as well as all mankind.

Participating in the congress work, we witnessed its profound party approach and sensed the enthusiasm with which the delegates, the millions of Communists, and the entire Soviet people backing them grasped the essence of the party forum's decisions and the confidence they place in the CPSU, its leadership, and M.S. Gorbachev.

The far-reaching proposals on disarmament and the principles of international cooperation expounded in the CPSU Central Committee Political Report project an image of a world free from wars.

The work of the 27th congress was followed with tremendous interest in Poland. The Soviet Union is our chief ally and partner. Its might, successes, and major development horizons are in keeping with our national interests. Our increasingly effective reorientation toward economic and scientific and technical cooperation with the socialist countries and implementation of agreements looking ahead to the end of the century match, as it were, the rhythm of Soviet acceleration. It is our big chance and, at the same time, a highly crucial task.

At the 27th congress we once again saw for ourselves the Soviet Communists' confidence in and their friendship and respect for our party and Polish society. This was fully confirmed during my meeting with CPSU Central Committee General Secretary M.S. Gorbachev.

During the preparations for the upcoming PZPR congress we are endeavoring to carefully study and make most responsible, dialectical use of the achievements of the 27th CPSU Congress and the other fraternal parties.

PZPR THESES FOR 10TH PARTY CONGRESS CITED

PM241529 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 23 Mar 86 First Edition p 4

[TASS report: PZPR Central Committee Theses"]

[Text] Warsaw, 22 Mar -- The basis of Poland's foreign policy is alliance with the USSR.

In the modern world there is not and cannot be any security without that alliance. It is stressed in the PZPR Central Committee theses for the 10th PZPR Congress, an account of which has been published by the PAP agency. Following a decision of the PZPR Central Committee Plenum, this document is being submitted for intraparty and nationwide discussion.

Hundreds of missiles with nuclear warheads are targeted on our country from the NATO states' territory, the theses say. We must be fully aware of the existence of this threat and do everything in our power to eliminate it.

The defense of Poland's vital interests demands internal stabilization and the safeguarding of the vanguard role of the working class and the leading role of the party. It is necessary to step up the process of strengthening the party's ties with the working class and intensify the uncompromising struggle against all opponents of socialism.

BALTIC TREATY DOCUMENTS EXCHANGED WITH POLAND

PM180915 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Mar 86 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Exchange of Documents"]

[Text] Warsaw, 15 Mar -- V.I. Brovikov, USSR ambassador to Poland, and H. Jaroszek, Polish deputy foreign minister, have exchanged documents here on the ratification of the treaty between the USSR and Poland on the delimitation of the territorial sea (territorial waters), economic zone, maritime fishing zone, and continental shelf in the Baltic Sea signed in Moscow on 17 July 1985.

COOPERATION AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH POLISH LAWYERS

PM241137 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Mar 86 Morning Edition p 5

[TASS report under rubric "Official Reports"]

[Text] An agreement on cooperation between the Association of Soviet Jurists and the Union of Polish Jurists was signed in Moscow on 19 March. It envisages mutual familiarization with work experience, particularly in the sphere of legal education of the population, and also joint activity within the framework of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers and other progressive international organizations.

The document was signed by A. Ya. Sukharev, RSFSR Minister of justice and acting president of the Association of Soviet Jurists, and Z. Czeszejko-Sochacki, chairman of the Union of Polish Jurists.

ARTIST COOPERATION PLAN SIGNED WITH POLAND

PM180949 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Mar 86 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Ties Are Strengthening"]

[Text] The plan for creative cooperation between the USSR Artists Union and the association of Polish painters and graphic artists and the association of sculptors of Poland for 1986 will serve to mutually enrich the socialist cultures of the Soviet Union and Poland. The plan was signed in Moscow on 14 March.

The document is based on the aims of the 27th CPSU Contress and the 10th PZPR Congress aimed at steadily developing and improving relations between the socialist community countries. The two countries' masters of representational art have agreed on the exchange of exhibitions and creative groups.

SILAYEV HOLDS TALKS ON MACHINE BUILDING IN CSSR

PM241729 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 23 Mar 86 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Collaboration in Machine Building"]

[Text] Prague, 22 Mar -- Soviet-Czechoslovak talks on questions of expanding and deepening the two countries' cooperation in the machine building sphere have ended here.

The delegation heads -- I.S. Silayev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers machine building bureau, and L. Gerle, deputy premier of the CSSR -- signed a concluding document defining urgent avenues of cooperation between the USSR and the CSSR in various machine building spheres. An agreement was signed on Soviet-Czechoslovak collaboration in motor vehicle building for the period through the year 2000, as well as a protocol to the agreement signed in Moscow in 1985 on cooperation between the USSR and the CSSR in the sphere of creating robotized complexes and flexible production systems and on the establishment of the "Robot" international scientific and technical association. I.S. Silayev was received by CSSR Premier L. Strougal.

ARISTOV, GDR FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER CONFER

PM241525 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 22 Mar 86 First Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Deepening Ties"]

[Text] A Soviet Government delegation headed by foreign trade minister B.I. Aristov visited the GDR 15-20 March where it had been taking part in the Leipzig international spring fair. Conversations were held with Foreign Trade Minister H. Soelle and with leaders of a number of enterprises, combines, and industrial ministries of the GDR. There were discussions of questions of expanding trade and economic ties between the two countries and of improving work on the exchange of advanced experience in sectors which determine scientific and technical progress in light of the 27th CPSU Congress decisions.

CONDOLENCES SENT ON ROMANIAN MINE BLAST

PM241549 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 24 Mar 86 First Edition p 2

[Text] To Comrade Constantin Dascalescu, prime minister of Romania

The USSR Council of Ministers expresses condolences in connection with the explosion at the "Vulkan" coal mine in Hunedoara Junet entailing loss of life. We ask you to convey our sincere sympathy to the families of the dead and to the victims.

The USSR Council of Ministers

FURTHER REPORTS, COMMENT ON SHULTZ TOUR

Pressures Greece on Business

LD241308 Moscow in Greek to Greece 1730 GMT 23 Mar 86

[Station commentary]

[Text] The 10-day tour by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz to the Western Europe countries is under way. In the U.S. capital they are not attempting to conceal the fact that the main goal of his tour is the effort to exert pressure on the governments of the two countries of NATO's southern flank, Greece and Turkey, with the aim of getting them to give their consent to the U.S. war bases remaining on their territories.

It is not hard to understand that one of the main topics that the U.S. secretary of state intends to touch upon in his talks in Athens is the fate of the U.S. war bases on Greek territory. The 5-year bilateral agreement concerning the U.S. military units in Greece will shortly expire. The Greek leadership continues as before to insist on the abolution of the bases. As was stressed in PASOK's [Panhellenic Socialist Movement] election manifesto, the foreign war bases undermine national security and carry a real danger to the country were a nuclear conflict to break out. Recently, Andreas Papandreou stressed once again that the Greek-U.S. agreement signed in 1983 provides for the removal of the U.S. bases once the agreement expires. This is precisely what the United States wants to avoid, as it is interested in preserving its strategically important military units in Greece.

The United States launched its efforts to force Athens to change its view so that the U.S. bases could remain in Greece after 1988, soon after the signing of the U.S.-Greek agreement. In the course of time these efforts became increasingly persistent; in fact, in the spirit of the old traditions of U.S. foreign policy the diplomatic (?steps) were always accompanied by some covert political pressure. It is worth recalling in this connection the red tape involved in the sale to the Greek Armed Forces of U.S. F-16 bombers. In a recent interview for the [word indistinct] magazine, Assistant U.S. Secretary of State Richard Perle openly stated that the abolution of the bases could lead to fundamental changes in U.S.-Western [as heard] relations, and that it could not be excluded that other bilateral agreements with Greece might not be renewed.

As for pressure on Greece, a contribution here was also made by the numerous envoys of the U.S. secretary of state; the fact that their efforts to persuade Greece to review its stand toward the U.S. bases have not been successful has to a great extent caused the need for the personal (?presence) of Shultz himself. U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT writes in connection with the visit of Shultz to Greece that this visit is unlikely (?to succeed). For some time now in Washington no attempt has been made to disguise their impatience with the independent and self-sufficient Greek stand on a spectrum of other fundamental international problems, first and foremost on the problem of nuclear disarmament. As is known, the Greek leadership hailed the Soviet Program for the total elimination of nuclear weapons. According to Mikhail Gorbachev's assessment, the message of Andreas Papandreou and the leaders of the other five countries addressed in February to the Soviet and U.S. leaderships, coincides to a great extent in spirit with the Soviet understanding for the general system of international security.

This (?rapprochement) of Athens does not only clash with the foreign policy course of the United States, but also shows in its view [words indistinct] of NATO. Washington does not have it in mind to reach a compromise about all this, and for this reason it is forced to resort to [word indistinct] and unconcealed pressure against its allies.

Holds Talks in Turkey

LD250043 Moscow TASS in English 1631 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Ankara March 24 TASS -- American Secretary of State George Shultz, on a visit here, today started talks with Turkish officials behind closed doors. According to the ANATOLIA news agency, attention will be focused on the question of extending their bilateral agreement on cooperation in defence and economy. No result has yet been achieved after three rounds of the negotiations started nearly five months ago.

The local press indicates that the Turkish-American meeting is marked by acute contradictions. They are due, specifically, to the fact that cooperation between the two countries has been obviously inequitable in recent years. The United States, in exchange for credits, wants to secure even easier terms for its military facilities, attach the country firmer to the NATO bloc, and dictate to it discriminary conditions of trade and economic cooperation. As expected, the talks in Ankara will touch on the question of modernizing American military bases on Turkish territory. The American side intends to use them for its interventionist "Rapid Deployment Forces."

Kasparov Commentary

LD251034 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1030 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Pavel Kasparov commentary from the "International Diary" program presented by Vladimir Fadeyev]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Shultz is continuing his tour of Western Europe countries. According to news agencies, he has arrived in Istanbul in conditions of strictest security. Istanbul is the second stop of the tour by the head of U.S. diplomacy. Earlier, this high-ranking guest visited Paris. There was no official report on his talks at the Elysee Palace and Hotel Matignon, the residence of the President and the Prime Minister. Apart from the measures of strictest security, Shultz' present tour is also notable for measures of strictest secrecy. And this is probably no accident, for there is every reason to suppose that the meetings which took place in the French capital between the U.S. secretary of state and President Mitterrand, and Chirac, the country's new prime minister, had a special significance for the U.S. diplomat.

For a long time now Washington has not hidden its wish to see in France a more obedient partner, particulary on the question of its attitude to Reagan's so-called Strategic Defense Initiative. Up to now, as you know, the leaders of the French Republic have openly come out against the star wars plans, calling on other Western Europe members of NATO to also follow their example. However, now, after the formation in France of a cabinet made up of a right-wing parliamentary majority, whose program documents record a completely different approach to the U.S. SDI, it was impossible, to judge from everything, for Washington not to be tempted to force events. This is why, even with the lack of official information about the results on talks in Paris, most French observers agree on the view that the U.S. emissary applied quite a bit of effort to tilt the scales on this issue in Washington's favor.

In Turkey and Greece, that is, the southern flank of NATO where he will subsequently go, the head of the U.S. State Department also intends to work actively to secure a disposition advantageous to Washington. There will be talks there about U.S. military bases in Turkey, which according to AP are considered vitally important for ensuring U.S. interests in the Mediterranean region. Apart from that, Washington administration spokesmen also don't conceal the fact that the United States is extremely interested in four U.S. bases in Greece, which have now acquired particular significance for the Pentagon in connection with the build-up of provocative military activity around Libya.

As is becoming clear, it is these bases which ensure support for the actions of U.S. aviation and naval forces in the region.

This is why, news services report, Shultz intends to promise both countries significant increases in U.S. military assistance in exchange for the normal functioning of U.S. bases on their territory. In his talks with the president and government of Italy, where the U.S. secretary of state plans to arrive and to conclude his tour he also intends to secure that country's active participation in the U.S. plans for the militarization of space. As is known, Rome should soon definitely speak out on the question of participation in the star wars program.

Thus we are once again talking about forced pressure, about the same unconcealed pressure on partners, which, as observers stress, is becoming the basis of the whole of the egotistical foreign policy of the United States, and Shultz's tour of Western Europe countries serves as convincing new confirmation of this.

FRANCE'S RAIMOND MEETS GORBACHEV, SHEVARDNADZE

Further on Gorbachev Talks

PM250948 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 Mar 86 Morning Edition p 1

[Text] On 24 March, Mikhail Sergeyvich Gorbachev, CPSU Central Committee general secretary received Jean-Bernard Raimond, foreign affairs minister in the new French Government, who is leaving the post of France's ambassador to Moscow.

Having congratulated Jean-Bernard Raimond warmly on his high appointment, Mikhail Gorbachev expressed confidence that the traditional links between the USSR and France will continue to develop in all spheres. This meets the interests of both countires, and now takes on even greater significance both for the all-European process and because of the urgency and acuteness of problems generated by the arms race. For his part Jean-Bernard Raimond spoke in favor of developing cooperation between France and the USSR, which is a constant in French foreign policy. The conversation passed in a constructive, well-meaning atmosphere.

Shevardnadze Hosts Luncheon

LD242022 Moscow TASS in English 1837 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Moscow March 24 TASS -- Today Eduard Shevardnadze, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, minister of foreign affairs of the USSR, had a conversation with Jean-Bernard Raimond who has been appointed the minister of foreign affairs of France. Having reaffirmed the invariability of the Soviet Union's line towards all-round development of relations with France as one of the important directions of the practical realisation of the foreign-policy strategy set out by the 27th Congress of the CPSU, Eduard Shevardnadze emphasized that the importance of a constructive Soviet-French political dialogue in the interests of strengthening detente, diminishing the war danger, and bringing about a peaceful settlement of conflict situations grows still more in the present-day international situation. There was a useful exchange of views on a number of matters of the international situation and of bilateral relations between the USSR and France.

Eduard Shevardnadze gave a luncheon in honour of Jean-Bernard Raimond. The luncheon was attended by Boris Aristov, minister of foreign trade of the USSR, Stepan Chervonenko, head of a department of the CPSU Central Committee, and by other officials. The luncheon passed in a friendly atmosphere.

[Moscow TASS in English at 1838 GMT reports that Jean-Bernard Raimond "left Moscow today"].

REPORTS ON REPERCUSSIONS OF FRENCH ELECTION

Government Intentions Viewed

LD202225 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 20 Mar 86

[From the "Vremya" newscast; announcer-read TASS report]

[Text] Jacques Chirac, chairman of one of the major right-wing parties in the country -- the Rally for the Republic -- has been appointed the new prime minister of France. He has presented President Mitterrand with a list of the ministers of the new cabinet. Also today the president accepted the resignation of the cabinet led by Laurent Fabius.

The composition of France's new government has been announced. Edouard Balladur, one of the closest advisers to Prime Minister Jacques Chirac, becomes the minister of economy, finance and denationalization; Jean-Barnard Raimond, present French ambassador to the Soviet Union becomes the minister of foreign affairs; and Andre Giraud becomes the minister of defense.

New French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac has declared that his cabinet will strive for the adoption of two fundamental acts in the immediate future. The first would entitle the government to make important decisions in the socioeconomic sphere by decree, that is without parliamentary vote. In precisely that way, the new government wants to carry out the denationalization of a number of state-controled companies and enterprises. Through the other act, it intends to realize an antidemocratic reform of the electoral system by abolishing proportional representation and restoring the majority system.

PRAVDA Analyzes Scene

PM201646 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 20 Mar 86 First Edition p 4

[V. Gusenkov article: "France: New Disposition of Forces"]

[Text] The results of the 16 March parliamentary elections have brought about a new and highly unusual disposition of political forces in France.

The leading bourgeois groupings -- the Rally for the Republic [RPR] headed by Mayor of Paris J. Chirac and the Union for French Democracy [UDF] founded by former President V. Giscard d'Estaing -- gained 291 of the 577 seats in the National Assembly. This gives them 2 seats more than necessary for an absolute majority. Thus the reins of power are transferred into the hands of the RPR and the UDF. A cabinet is due to be formed and a government program elaborated in the near future. But the election victory by the RPR and the UDF was much more modest than their leaders expected. It is no accident that the headquarters of these parties are refraining from making any triumphant declarations.

The French Socialist Party [PS], which governed the country for the last 5 years, is moving into opposition. More than one-third of voters cast their votes for the Socialists and their allies, the Left Radicals. A solid result. It testifies, in particular, that in the eyes of many French people, the PS -- despite all its vacillations -- was a kind of barrier against powerful pressure from the right.

The elections confirmed that the PS remains the most influential political force in France. During the election campaign the Socialists made quite skillful use of their position as ruling party and their broad access to mass news media.

The proportional representation system, introduced on the PS' initiative last year, played a far from insignificant role in its favor. Finally, the Socialists were also favored to a certain extent by the economic situation and in particular by the falling inflation and the strengthening of the franc's positions as a result of falls in the dollar exchange rate and oil prices. At the same time, the "economic stringency" policy implemented by the PS led to serious social losses for working people. In the years when the Socialists were in power the number of unemployed rose from 1.7 million to almost 2.5 million and now totals approximately 10 percent of the active population. As a result of industry's "modernization" on capitalist principles, about 600,000 jobs were lost in 5 years. Naturally, this course caused disappointment and indignation among working people and alienated a considerable proportion of voters from the Socialists and other left-wing parties.

The overall outcome of the elections is that the center of gravity of political life in the country has shifted to the right. This is confirmed by the sensational election success of the ultraright-wing racist "National Front" groups which gained 35 seats. This will be the first time in the last 3 decades that members of the ultraright will take seats at Bourbon Palace, where the French parliamentarians hold their sessions. Their emergence in the political arena, directly linked with the crisis and the aggravation of social contradictions, is a highly alarming sign for all champions of democracy in France.

The French Communist Party [PCF] experienced the bitter taste of failure in the elections. It gained about 10 percent of votes and 35 seats in the National Assembly. The Communists had to wage their struggle under harsh conditions and to oppose a broad front, ranging from the bourgeois parties to the PS. A bitter campaign against the PCF was launched by the mass news media. The right-wing circles are now maliciously rejoicing at the Communist Party's failure. What is amazing is that PS leaders have joined in this choir. Is it not obvious that any weakening of the PCF undermines the positions of the entire left-wing democratic movement in the face of the monopolies?

A PCF Politburo statement notes that, following the right-wing forces' victory, it is necessary to draw all conclusions from the sad and painful experience the people's movement has just lived through. It is to be assumed that the Communist Party will investigate in detail the causes of this failure. A Central Committee plenum has been scheduled for the near future. The PCF leadership is orienting Communists toward party cohesion and galvanization of the struggle for the working people's interests. Communists are aware that the PCF's weight and influence in the country do not depend only on the election results. Its strength lies in strengthening its ties with the working class and the world of labor. The Communists' enemies are forced to take this strength into account both now and in the future.

The unusual nature of the situation which has developed following the elections stems from the fact that this is the first time in the existence of the Fifth Republic that the president cannot rely on the support of the majority in parliament. A kind of dual power is emerging. How will relations develop between President F. Mitterrand and the parliamentary majority? Will it be possible for the president to "cohabit" with the new government? These are the questions currently being asked in French political circles.

The president enjoys quite broad powers under the Constitution. He has repeatedly declared his determination to remain in office until the end of his term, in other words through 1988. It is assumed in Paris that the results of the parliamentary elections will encourage the president to make even broader use of his powers as head of state. As for the new parliamentary majority, all the indications are that there is no complete unanimity within its ranks on the question of "cohabitation." French political observers see this as a potential source of conflict and even of instability in the domestic political situation.

The main issue of course, is the policy which the French Government will follow. The election platform of the bourgeois groups envisaged a stringent economic and social line. The objectives included a sharp reduction of state regulations of the economy, the granting of even broader opportunities to big capital, and the curtailing of trade union rights and working people's socioeconomic gains.

The RPR and UDF leaders proclaim their commitment to France's interests and emphasize their desire to follow an independent line in international affairs. There is talk about a desire to maintain dialogue and develop relations with the Soviet Union. It is true that some people are urging a "new" look at France's foreign policy and particularly on the question of the attitude toward the U.S. "Strategic Defense Initiative." It is well known that President F. Mitterrand has repeatedly declared that the militarization of space would undermine strategic stability in the world and would be detrimental to France's security. One cannot but agree with this.

As far as the Soviet Union is concerned, it is invariably in favor of good relations and cooperation with France in the interests of strengthening peace and security in Europe and throughout the world. Any steps in this direction will meet with a positive response and support from the Soviet side.

ITALIAN CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES PRESIDENT VISITS

Arrives in Moscow

LD242348 Moscow TASS in English 1214 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Moscow March 24 TASS -- Nilde Jotti, president of the Chamber of Deputies of the Italian Parliament, arrived in Moscow Sunday on an official visit at the invitation of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. Today, the guest visited the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. She was welcomed by the Chairman of the Soviet of Nationalities of the U.S.S.R. Supreme Soviet Avgust Voss. The sides stated during the talk that strengthening Soviet-Italian inter-parliamentary ties contributed towards developing Soviet-Italian relations, promoting peace and international cooperation.

Meets With Gromyko

LD242354 Moscow TASS in English 1809 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Moscow March 24 TASS -- Andrey Gromyko, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, president of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, today received in the Kremlin Nilde Jotti, president of Italy's Chamber of Deputies. Nilde Jotti was an associate of Palmiro Togliatti and his wife. Member of the leadership of the Italian Communist Party, Nilde Jotti, in 1979, was elected president of the Chamber of Deputies, the first Italian woman to be elected to this post. Now she enjoys great influence in the political circles and popularity among Italy's population.

Some problems of the world situation, as well as prospects of the development of bilateral relations between the Soviet Union and Italy, also along the parliamentary lines, were discussed during the conversation which has passed in a friendly atmosphere. Andrey Gromyko dwelt on the programme of creating a comprehenesive system of international security advanced by the 27th CPSU Congress, on the Soviet Union's struggle for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons by the end of the current century, for the prevention of an arms race in outer space and its termination on earth. He emphasized the importance of the proposals contained in the statement of January 15 of this year by Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

A considerable part of the new Soviet initiatives is addressed directly to Europe. They are aimed at the development of a European process to establish broad peaceful cooperation in Europe.

The Land of Soviets strongly declares for ridding Europe of nuclear weapons, is prepared to eliminate shortly all its medium-range missiles in Europe, both ballistic and cruise ones, if the same is done in Europe by the United States. This will be an initial step toward ridding Europe of nuclear weapons.

Nilde Jotti's attention was drawn to the address of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet to the United States Congress on the issue of terminating nuclear tests. Simultaneous non-resumption of such tests both by the USSR and the USA would promote the improvement of the world's political climate. Deplorably, there are various reservations that make it impossible even to get down to a negotiating table. The obvious unwillingness to discuss topical matters is thus shown. But the attempts to achieve the military superiority at which the U.S. "star wars" programme is aimed are dangerous and prospectless. The Soviet Union will not tolerate the disruption of the strategic nuclear-missile parity.

Concern has been expressed over the involvement of some West European states, Italy among them, in the implementation of the U.S. "star wars" plans. The need was also emphasized to keep from any steps that lead to shipping up the arms race. Nilde Jotti noted the intense interest evoked in Italy by the Soviet initiatives aimed at lessening war danger. She positively assessed them, on her part, and declared in favour of limitation and reduction, which would meet the interests of all countries and peoples. Both sides expressed the conviction of the need for increasing the efforts of political, public and business circles of the world toward the improvement of the international situation, confidence-building. The participants in the conversation also confirmed the readiness of both sides to continue the Soviet-Italian dialogue and widen fruitful cooperation between them.

Confers With Gorbachev

LD250843 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0830 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Moscow, 25 Mar (TASS) -- CPSU Central Committee General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev received the president of the Italian Republic's Chamber of Deputies, Nilde Jotti, in the Kremlin today. Nilde Jotti has been in the Soviet Union on an official visit since Sunday at the invitation of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

USSR PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION MEETS MUBARAK

LD241158 Moscow TASS in English 1120 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Cairo March 24 TASS -- President Husni Mubarak of Egypt received a visiting Soviet parliamentary delegation led by Pavel Gilashvili, vice-president of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. The head of the Soviet delegation handed over to the Egyptian president a message from the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. expressing the desire of the Soviet Union to promote and develop relations with the Arab Republic of Egypt on the basis of the principles of respect and non-intervention in the internal affairs of each other.

During the conversation that passed in a friendly atmosphere, Husni Mubarak asked the delegation to inform the Soviet leadership, Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and Andrey Gromyko, president of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R., personally that the Arab Republic of Egypt sincerely wanted the development of good relations with the U.S.S.R.

Although there were difficult times in Soviet-Egyptian relations in the past, the president said, the people of Egypt fondly remember our friendship. The U.S.S.R. rendered valuable assistance to us, and we shall never forget that. I reaffirm this on behalf of the Egyptian people. The Aswan water power project will always be a symbol of that friendship. The High Aswan Dam precluded floods and saved Egypt from famine caused by the drought in Africa in the past six years.

The president then informed the delegation about Egypt's economic and social development plans for the coming years. Taking part in the conversation were members of the U.S.S.R. Supreme Soviet delegation, deputies Sergey Losev, Anatoliy Majorets, Nikolay Popov, Janikul Yusupov, and Aleksandr Belonogov, ambassador of the U.S.S.R. to Egypt. Present from the Egyptian side were Rif'at al-Mahjub, speaker of the People's Assembly of Egypt, Muhammad Ahmad 'Abdallah, chairman of the foreign relations commission of the Egyptian parliament, and Usamah al-Baz, head of the Political Office of the President.

Talk With Prime Minister, Others

LD241851 Moscow TASS in English 1822 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Cairo March 24 TASS -- A delegation of the USSR Supreme Soviet headed by Vice President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet Pavel Gilashvili, on an official visit here, met today with Prime Minister of Arab Republic of Egypt 'Ali Lutfi, with deputies of the prime minister, with Agriculture Minister of the Arab Republic of Egypt Yusuf Wali who is general secretary of the ruling National Democratic Party of the country and with Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid.

Yusuf Wali noted that the Egyptian people appreciated the good and was striving for the restoration of traditional friendship that had earlier linked the two countries. He declared for the resumption of contacts and exchange of visits at different levels and in various spheres. The minister expressed the hope for the widening of commercial and technological ties between the USSR and Egypt. He noted the interest in cooperation with the Soviet Union in developing new lands in Egypt.

Prime Minister of the Arab Republic of Egypt 'Ali Lutfi declared that Egypt adheres to to the principles of non-alignment, peaceful coexistence and non-interference in the affairs of other countries. Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Majid confirmed Egypt's striving to consolidate relations with the USSR on a basis of mutual respect and mutual interests.